FineScale Modeler
SPECIAL ISSUE

225+ GREAT MODELS!

Great Scale Modeling® 2023

SPRING 2023

▶ Terrific tanks

BE INSPIRED!

10 BIG SHOWS

▶ Awesome aircraft

▶ Stellar sci-fi

▶ Striking ships

▶ Fabulous figures

VISIT…

LANZAROTE
Caliente.COM

It's a Book! It's a Magazine! It's a Special Issue!

Special Issues from *FineScale Modeler*

SPECIAL EDITION
Build Better Model Aircraft
HOW TO ASSEMBLE · DETAIL · PAINT · AIRBRUSH CAMOUFLAGE & MORE!
YOUR STEP-BY-STEP MODELING GUIDEBOOK
ULTIMATE GUIDE TO FINISHING
BUILD MORE-REALISTIC MODELS
DAMAGED
100 PAGES OF THE BEST MODELS
Great Scale Modeling
200 CONTEST MODELS
6 SHOWCASES + DAN JAYNE CUTAWAYS
100th anniversary of WWI's end
Great War Scale Modeling
BUILDING ICONS
17 PAGES OF NEW SHOW PHOTOS

SAVE 20%!

Use code **FSM20** at checkout.

Shop the Kalmbach Hobby Store for top-quality special issues from *FineScale Modeler*. From building war aircraft to sci-fi vehicles, these special editions will inform and inspire you again and again.

Order today and save 20% with coupon code FSM20.

Shop now at KambachHobbyStore.com/FSMSpecial

P35942

Sales tax where applicable. Coupon code FSM20 cannot be combined with any other offers and applies only to *FineScale Modeler* special issues.

25 YEARS OF STELLAR MODELS

1,620 pages of inspiration & ideas
Great Scale Modeling
25-YEAR SPECIAL ISSUE ARCHIVE
1998-2022
FINESCALE MODELER EXCLUSIVE
FineScale Modeler
DVD-ROM

FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER, 25 years of *Great Scale Modeling* special issues are available on one DVD-ROM! Get over 2,500 of the coolest models of aircraft, military vehicles, sci-fi, cars and trucks, and more all together in an easily accessible digital format.

Great Scale Modeling 25-Year Archive DVD-ROM brings you world-class modeling inspiration from the biggest modeling shows and contests in the U.S. along with the recent dream builds from readers. **Get inspiration and ideas for your next model!**

Order your DVD-ROM today at

KalmbachHobbyStore.com/GSMDVD

Kalmbach Media

Sales tax where applicable.

P40483

CONTENTS

Great Scale Modeling
2023

4 **Editor's note**
Back in the swing of things

5 **How to photograph your models**
Tips and tricks for getting better images for print

6 **IPMS/USA National Convention**
The folks in La Vista always put on a good show and the 2022 event featured more than 3,000 models

24 **Mad City Modelers 26th Annual Show and IPMS Region 5 Convention**
Despite March weather Madison, Wisconsin, welcomed modelers from across the upper Midwest

32 **HeritageCon 2022**
Contest tables among the aircraft at the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum makes this event special

46 **NimCon 10**
Hosted by Lakes Region Scale Modelers, this June show is a highlight for northern Illinois

54 **WonderFest USA 2022**
Feast your eyes on some of the out-of-this-world creations at this show for sci-fi, fantasy, and horror subjects

66 **NordicCon 2022**
Five Minneapolis-area clubs team up to host this annual Twin Cities show and contest

74 **2nd Annual Midwest Scale Madness**
The sophomore contest featured cars, planes, tanks, and more

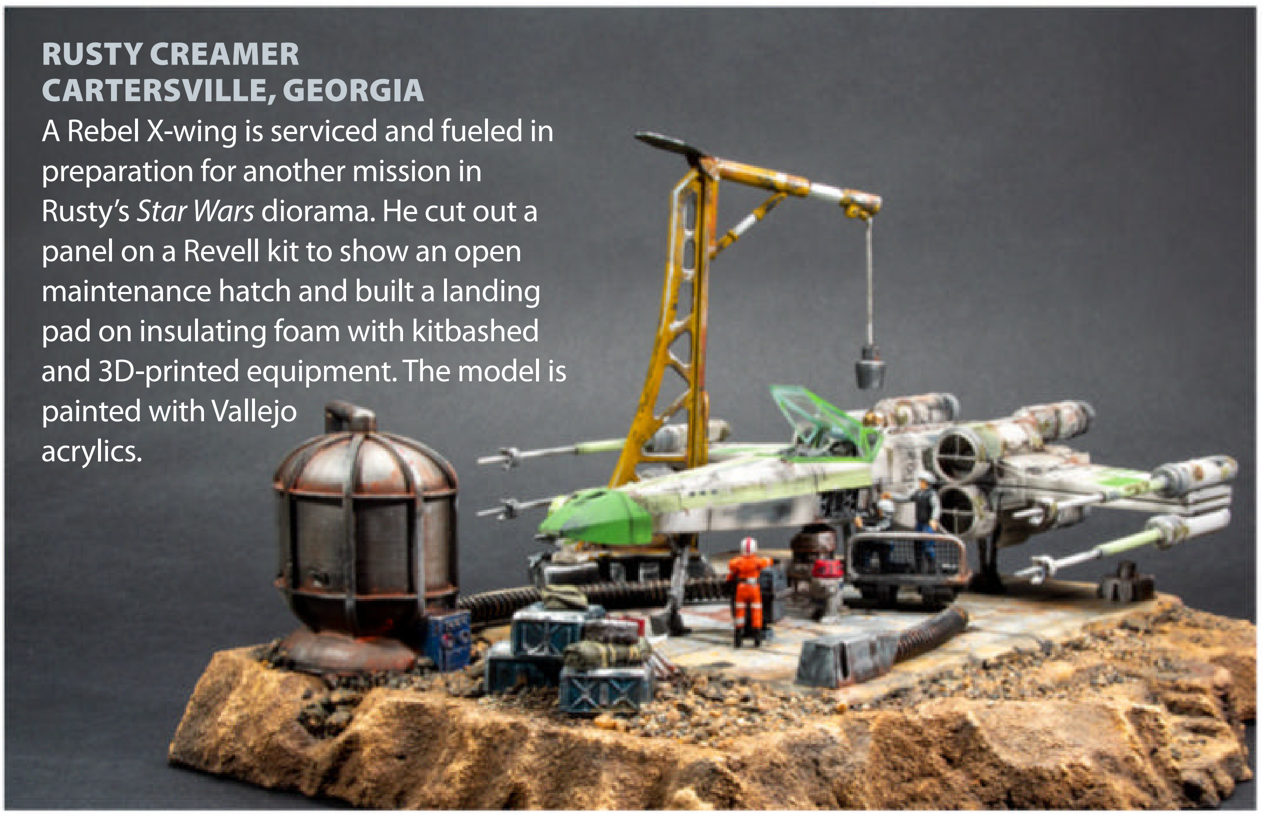
78 **MMSI Chicago Show 2022**
The annual Military Miniature Society of Illinois features some of the best figure models in the world

86 **Roscoe Turner Indy Invitational**
Held in Lebanon, Indiana, this show covers it all

92 **39th Annual Butch O'Hare Open Model Contest**
Stunning models graced the tables at this Chicagoland show

99 **Parting shot**

By Aaron Skinner



RUSTY CREAMER
CARTERSVILLE, GEORGIA
A Rebel X-wing is serviced and fueled in preparation for another mission in Rusty's *Star Wars* diorama. He cut out a panel on a Revell kit to show an open maintenance hatch and built a landing pad on insulating foam with kitbashed and 3D-printed equipment. The model is painted with Vallejo acrylics.

Back in the swing of things

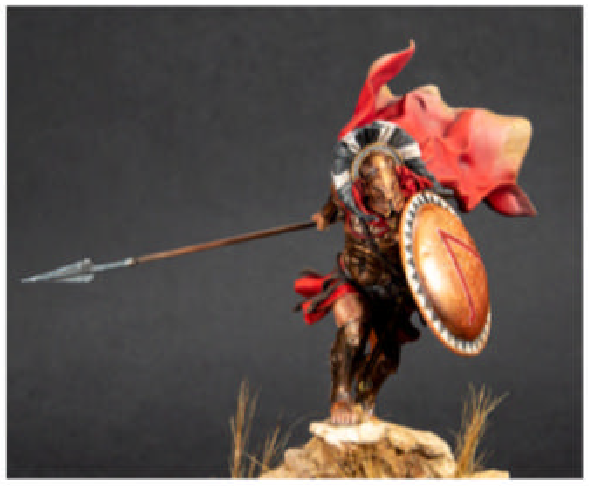
After a couple of years of cancelled, postponed, or downsized model contests, 2022 saw a return to pre-COVID form. Hobbyists flocked to local, regional, and national shows, many bringing models built during lockdowns, swelling tables with great-looking dioramas, ships, aircraft, tanks, spacecraft, and figures. So much inspiration in one place! Or several places as it happened. This re-energized show schedule kept the staff of *FineScale Modele*r busy. Tim Kidwell, Kendra Bell, and I were on the road more than a dozen weekends in 2022, shooting photos at shows from Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, to Omaha, Nebraska, and many places in between. This edition of *Great Scale Modeling* details the work we did at 10 events. The balance were published in *Contest Cars 2022* this past November (it's available now!).

Seeing models from other hobbyists is just one of the reasons it's good to be back in the show groove. It is also a chance to talk face-to-face with fellow modelers, which I always enjoy. Seeing the enthusiasm others have for the hobby keeps me going and can help lift me out of the occasional slump, especially true when I talk to someone who has built something I have in my stash. That's all the encouragement I need to pull out that kit and get started.

Happy modeling and see you at the next show!

Aaron Skinner

editor@finescale.com



▲ **GARY BAKER**
INDIO, CALIFORNIA
To finish a 75mm Spartan noble from Spanish figure maker Big Child Creatives, Gary painted with Vallejo acrylics. Pastels and artist oils weathered and shaded the charging warrior. To expand the small rock outcropping that came with the resin kit, he added groundwork with putty and clay.

Great Scale Modeling

Editor Aaron Skinner
Editor, Scale Modeling Brand Group Tim Kidwell
Assistant Editor, Digital Kendra Bell
Assistant Design Director Scott M. Krall
Editorial Associate Monica Freitag

ART & PRODUCTION
Design Director Tom Danneman
Illustrator Kellie Jaeger
Production Coordinator Sue Hollinger-Klahn

KALMBACH MEDIA
Chief Executive Officer Dan Hickey
Chief Financial Officer Christine Metcalf
Chief Marketing Officer Nicole McGuire
Vice President, Content Stephen C. George
Vice President, Operations Brian J. Schmidt
Vice President, Human Resources Sarah A. Horner
Circulation Director Liz Runyon
Director of Digital Strategy Angela Cotey
Director of Design & Production Michael Soliday
Retention Manager Kathy Steele
Single Copy Specialist Kim Redmond

EDITORIAL
262-796-8776

ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT
888-558-1544
Advertising Sales Representative
Michael Wieloch, Ext. 625
mwieloch@kalmbach.com
Ad Production
adservices@kalmbach.com

RETAIL, TRADE ORDERS, AND INQUIRIES
Selling *FineScale Modeler* magazine or products in your store:
Phone 800-558-1544
Outside U.S. & Canada 262-796-8776, Ext. 818
Fax 262-798-6592
Email tss@Kalmbach.com
Website retailers.kalmbach.com

CUSTOMER SALES AND SERVICE
Phone 877-246-4847
Outside the U.S. and Canada 903-636-1125
Customer Service
customerservice@FineScaleModeler.info

SPECIAL EMAIL & WEB ADDRESSES
Ad Sales adsales@FineScale.com
Letters to the Editor editor@FineScale.com
New Products mfreitag@FineScale.com
Reader Gallery fileupload.Kalmbach.com
Reader Questions questions@FineScale.com
Reader Tips tips@FineScale.com

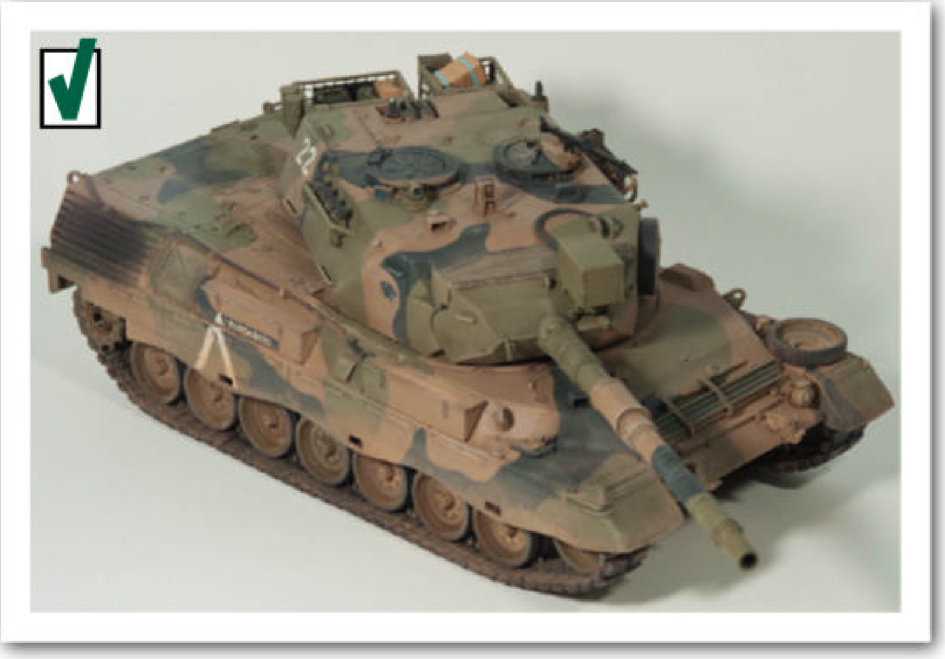
Great Scale Modeling (ISBN 978-1-62700-983-6, EISBN 978-1-62700-984-3) is produced by FineScale Modeler magazine and published by Kalmbach Media, 21027 Crossroads Circle, P.O. Box 1612, Waukesha, WI 53187.
© 2023 Kalmbach Media. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or part in any language without written permission of Kalmbach Media is prohibited.
Single-copy price $13.99 in U.S.A.; $15.99 in Canada and other countries. Canadian price includes GST. BN 12271 3209 RT. Canadian and international orders payable in U.S. funds. Canadian International Publications Mail Products Agreement no. 40010760. EXPEDITED DELIVERY SERVICE: Domestic First Class-$2.50, Canadian Air-$2.50, Foreign Air-$6.00. Address all correspondence to **Great Scale Modeling**, P.O. Box 1612, Waukesha WI 53187. Printed in the U.S.A.

Kalmbach Media

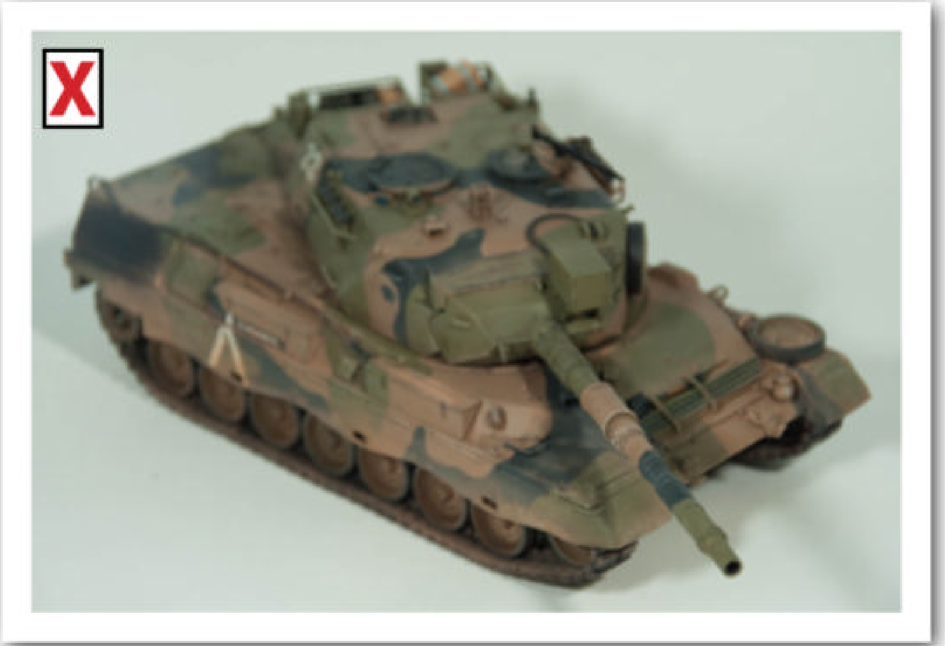
How to photograph your models

Want to see your models in *FineScale Modeler* magazine?

Read our tips and tricks to get the best photos and maximize your chance we'll feature your scale creation in the *FineScale Modeler* Reader Gallery or Show Gallery. Images are like building models: There are no shortcuts to good ones, and those good ones really stand out. The higher the quality of the image, the more likely it will be published and not passed over in the editing process.



This photo was shot at f/22 with the focal point on the corner of the mantlet nearest the camera. The entire Leopard tank is in focus.



This image was shot at f/4 with the camera focused in roughly the same spot. Very little of the tank is in focus, rendering this image unusable.

PLEASE DO:

Provide plenty of information: Put yourself in the reader's place. If you see a nice model, what do you want to know about it? Which kit is it? How did you modify it? What type and brand of paint did you use? What does the model represent and why did you build it? The more information you give us, the more likely we are to publish it? Don't forget to give us you name and the place you live.

Use a high-quality digital camera: While phone cameras have come a long way in the last few years, they rely on digital focus and white balance that simply aren't as good as DSLR or good-quality point-and-shoot digital cameras. They're fine for selfies, but not so good for publication. You will need f/11-f/16 to get most subjects in focus from nose to tail, bow to stern, headlight to taillight, or wingtip to wingtip. Set the camera to the highest resolution and least image compression. RAW format images are preferred; and please, don't retouch the images. Use as much light as you can get and an ISO of 60-100. When focusing, find a point about ⅓ to ½ way along the fuselage, body, or hull.

Vary the camera angle: Send us several shots of each of your models from different points of view. This gives us plenty of choices for publication. Please be sure to show the entire model in the image; don't clip things like wingtips, gun barrels, masts, taillights, and rotor blades.

Shoot on a clean background: A seamless white or light gray background, sometimes called a sweep, is best. If you don't have one, grab a piece of construction paper or thin poster board and curve it — no folds or creases — so what is behind the model has no lines.

PLEASE DON'T:

Use a phone camera or low-resolution point-and-shoot: The image quality isn't good enough.

Send us poor quality images: Photos that are dark, blurry or out of focus, or clip parts of the model will be rejected.

Shoot photos on a textured background: Avoid taking photos of models on blue, yellow, red, or textured backgrounds. A plain, white background is best. Do not use paper towels, bath towels, or bed sheets. Remember, you want people to see your model, not your linens.

Don't shoot on your workbench: If yours is anything like most modelers', it is cluttered with tools and splattered with paint. In the worst case, you may be revealing your beverage preferences to the *FSM* readership. If you want to show your model in its best light, take the time to set up a dedicated space to shoot photos.

Use direct flash: Although many DSLRs and point-and-shoot cameras feature on-camera or pop-up flashes, they make models look flat and boring. If you must use a flash, figure out a way to bounce it off a ceiling or wall. Or better still, use off-camera lighting from the sides or top.

A few minutes of prep work and attention to detail can greatly improve your images. Please review this guide and help us present your models in the best way possible. Find more information under the "About FSM" tab and "Contribute to FSM" link at FineScale.com. If you have questions, email editor@FineScale.com.

IPMS/USA National Convention

Modelers from across the United States and around the world flocked to La Vista, Nebraska, in late July for the annual contest and convention of the International Plastic Modelers Society/USA. They brought more than 3,000 models of every conceivable genre providing plenty of eye-candy and inspiration.

The 2023 National Convention will be held August 2-5 in San Marcos, Texas. For more information, go to Nats2023.com.

► **LYNN ROWLEY**

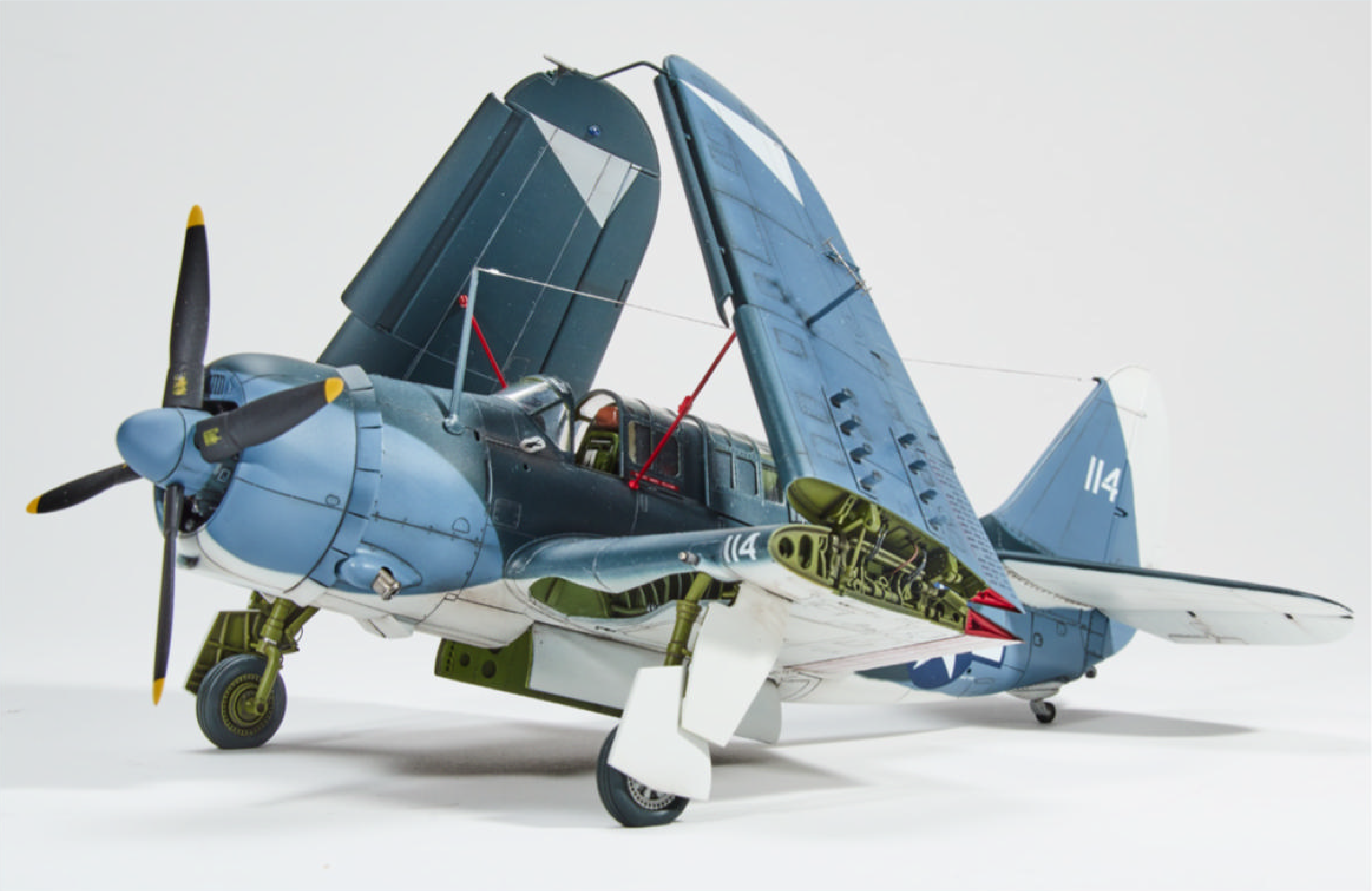
MIDLOTHIAN, TEXAS

"War Horse" is part of a planned six figures that Lynn is sculpting and detailing completely from scratch. He made the horse head and armor from Magic Sculpt, equipped it with styrene strip harness, a sword made of styrene sheet, and raided his sister's beading supplies for interesting details. "When you're scratchbuilding, you find ways to use all sorts of parts that you might not otherwise," Lynn says.

▼ **WAYNE HOLMES**

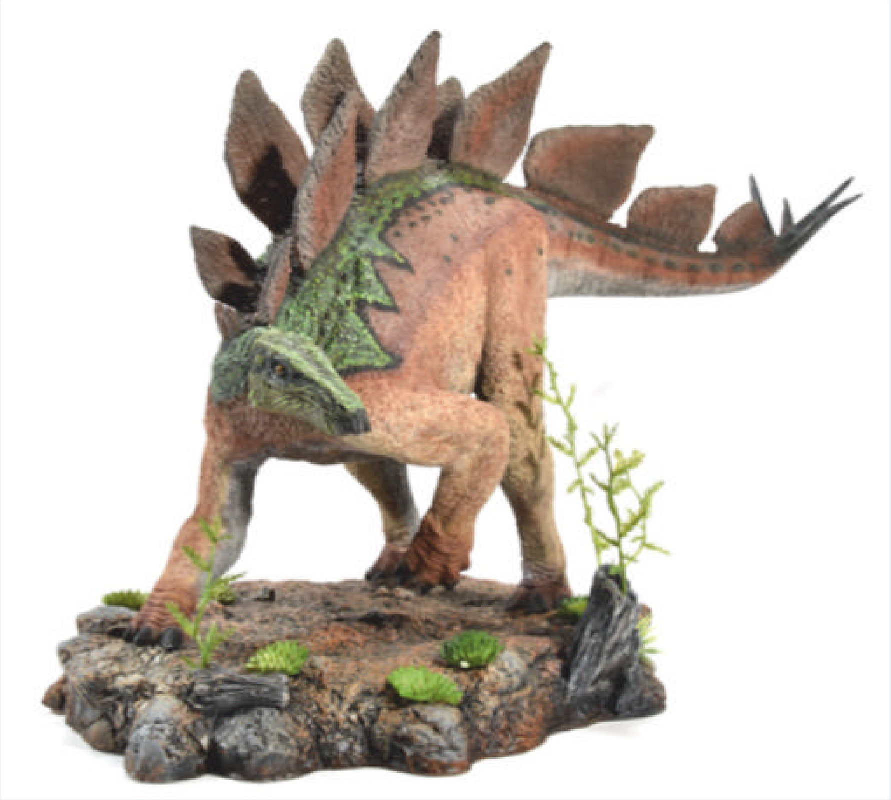
NELSON, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA

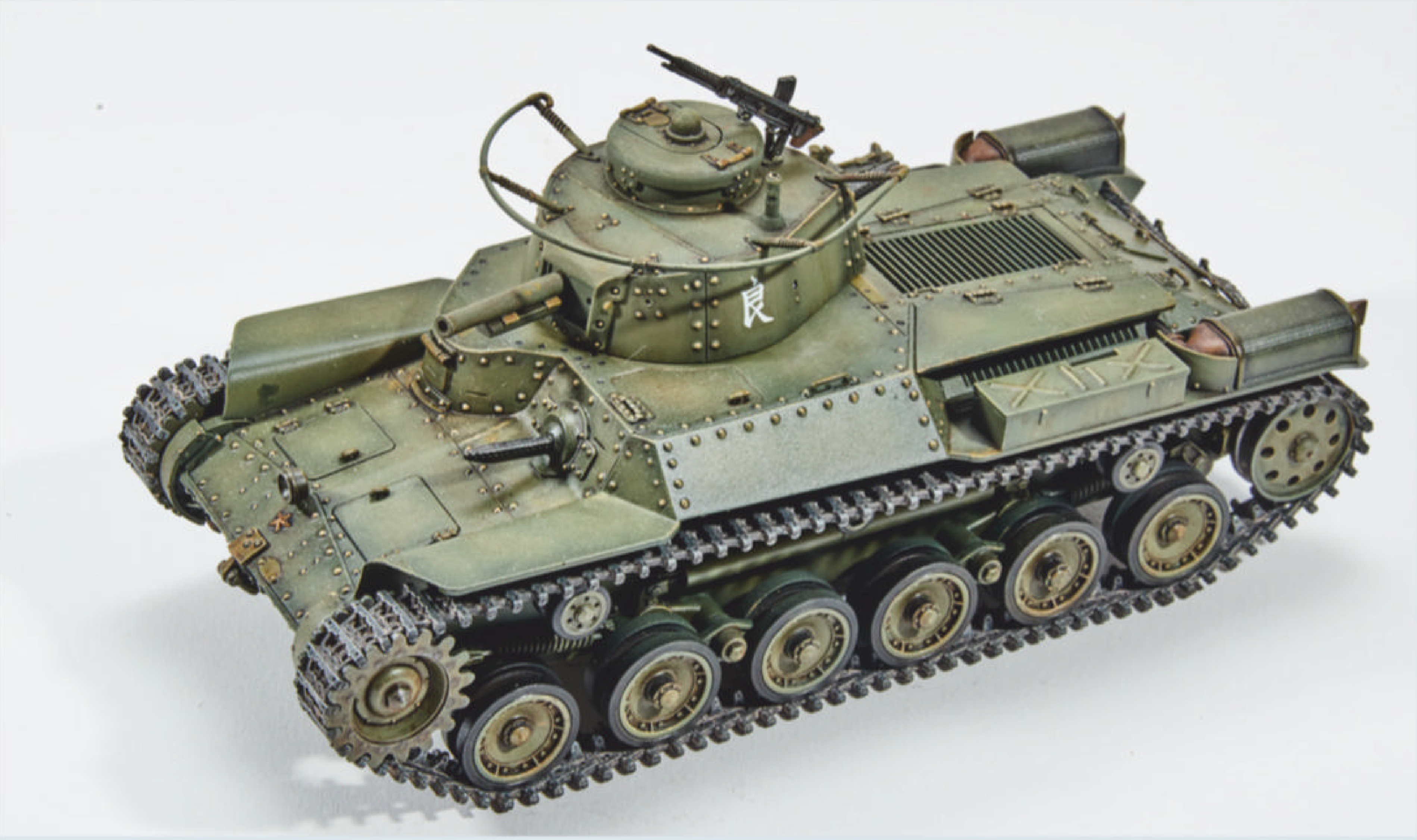
Wayne didn't use aftermarket parts on his ProModeler 1/48 scale Curtiss SB2C-4 Helldiver. Instead, he scratchbuilt the bomb bay, folding wings, gear bays, and much of the cockpit. He masked with Silly Putty, painted with Mr. Color lacquers, and weathered with pastels and artist oils.



▼ JOHN EVERETT
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

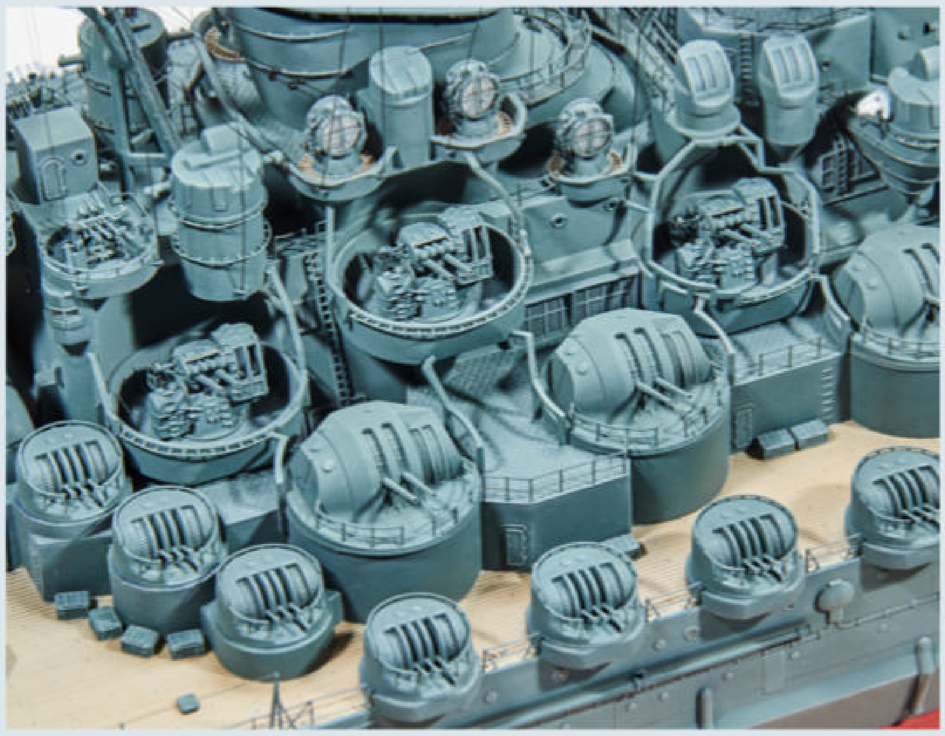
This stegosaurus is ready to kick some Jurassic! John built Cretaceous Creations 1/15 scale dino and painted with Tamiya and Vallejo paints sprayed through an Iwata NEO. John says the stego is contemplating his role in the universe.





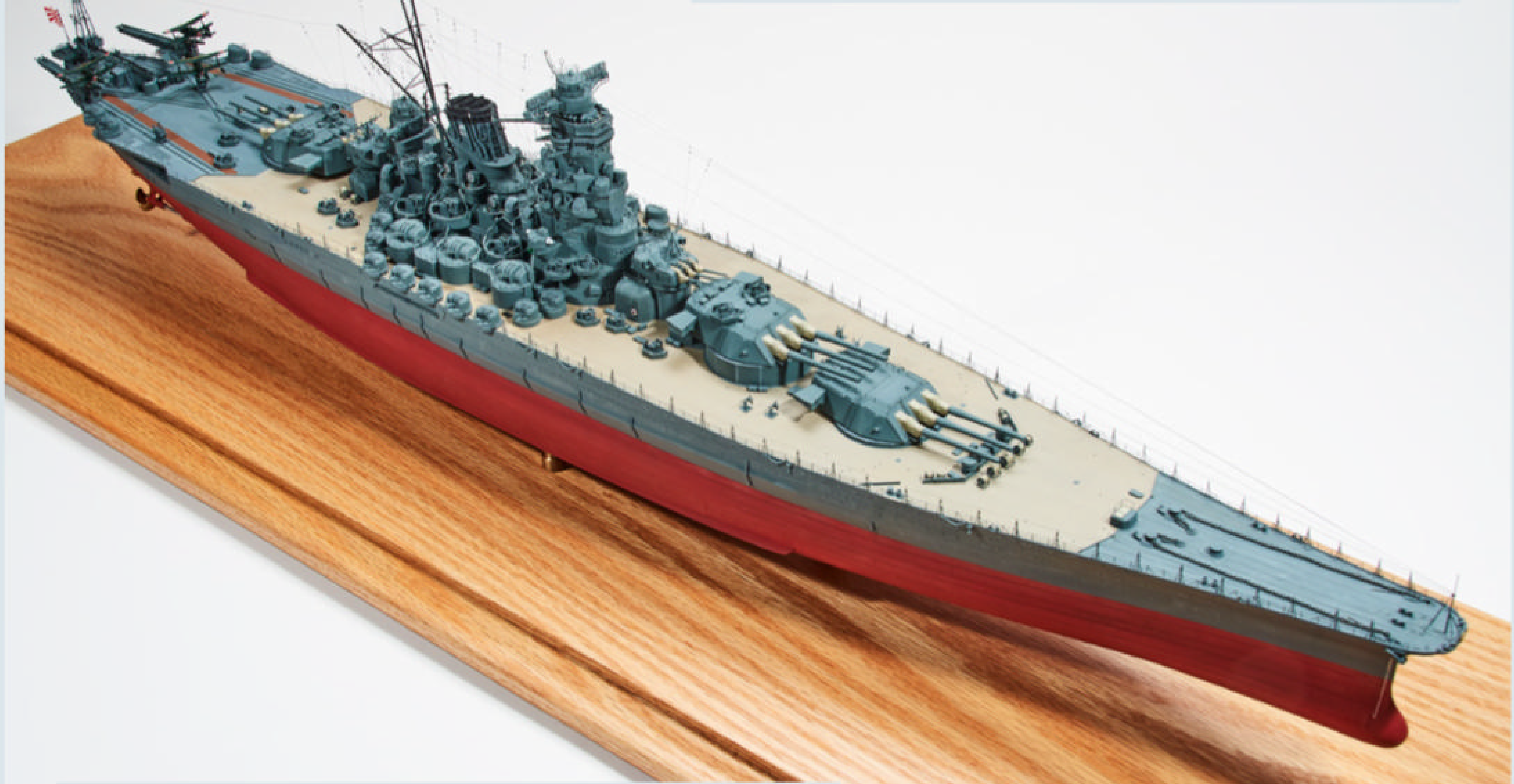
▲ JACQUES DUQUETTE
BOVEY, MINNESOTA

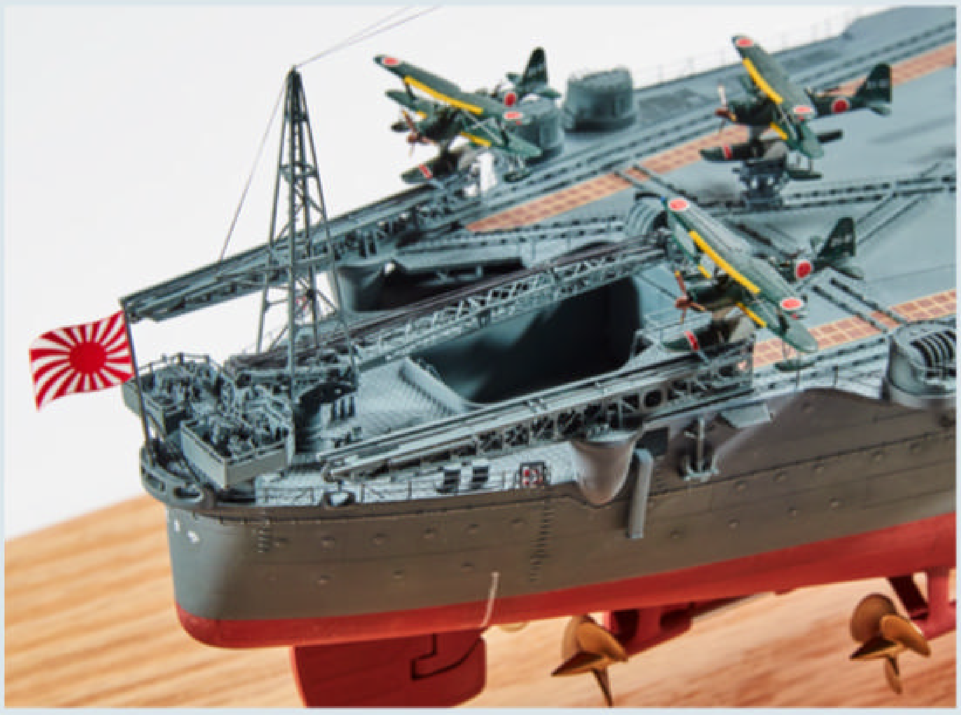
"No modifications of any kind!" Jacques says of his Tamiya 1/35 scale Type 97 Chi Ha. Jacques wants other modelers to know that older kits "can still be built at a respectable level." We agree! He painted with Polly Scale and Model Master acrylics, with lots of panel shading and washes.

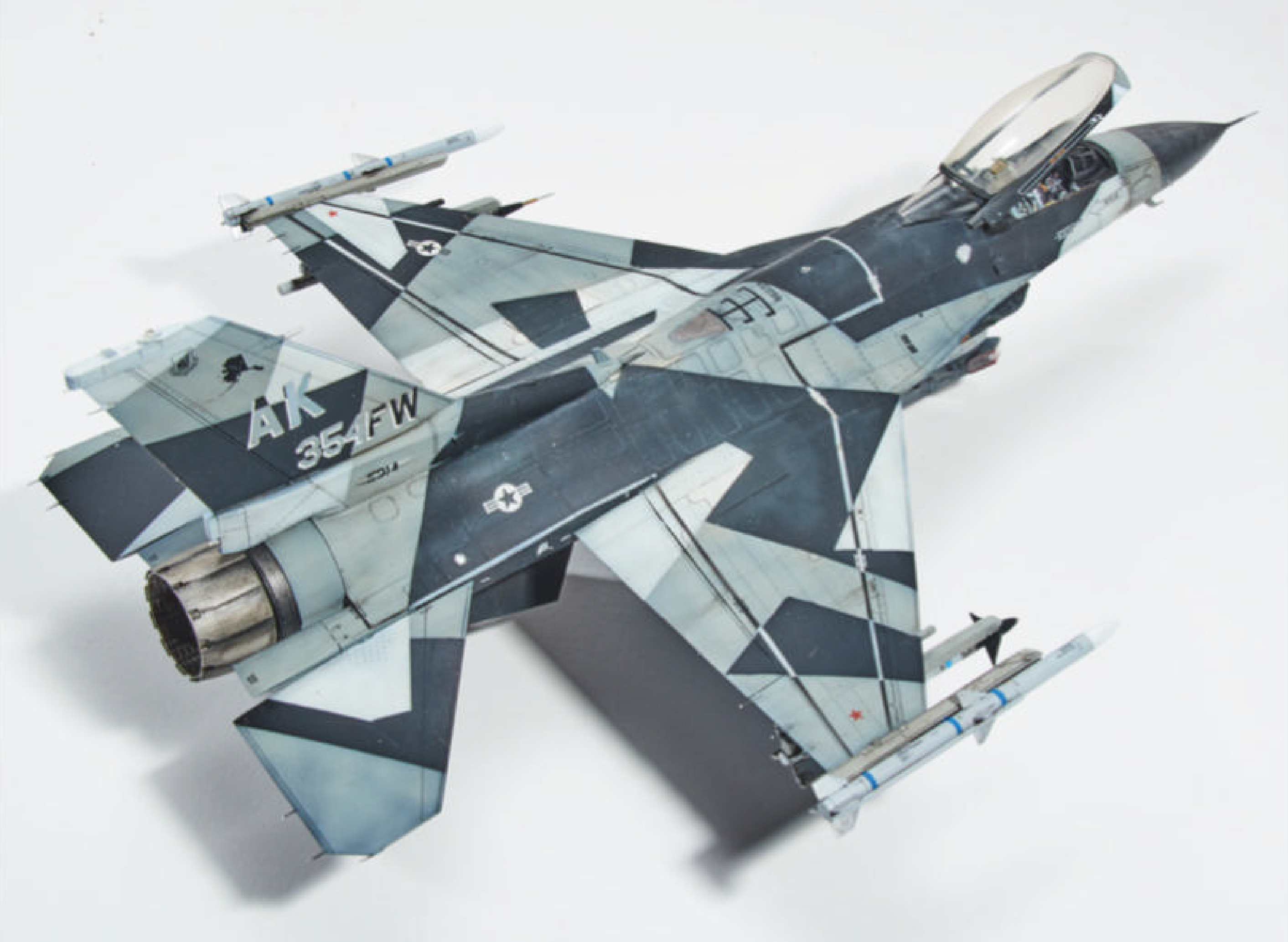


▼► JOSEPH SIMON
JACKSON, WISCONSIN

Aftermarket details from Pontos, LionRoar, and Artworx helped Joe finish his Tamiya 1/350 scale IJN *Yamato* built to depict the ship in March 1945. Joe spent more than 2,000 hours over four and a half years on this build, and the care shows. He painted with White Ensign colors and only engaged in a modest amount of weathering before setting it on a base made from his grandpa's cabinets.

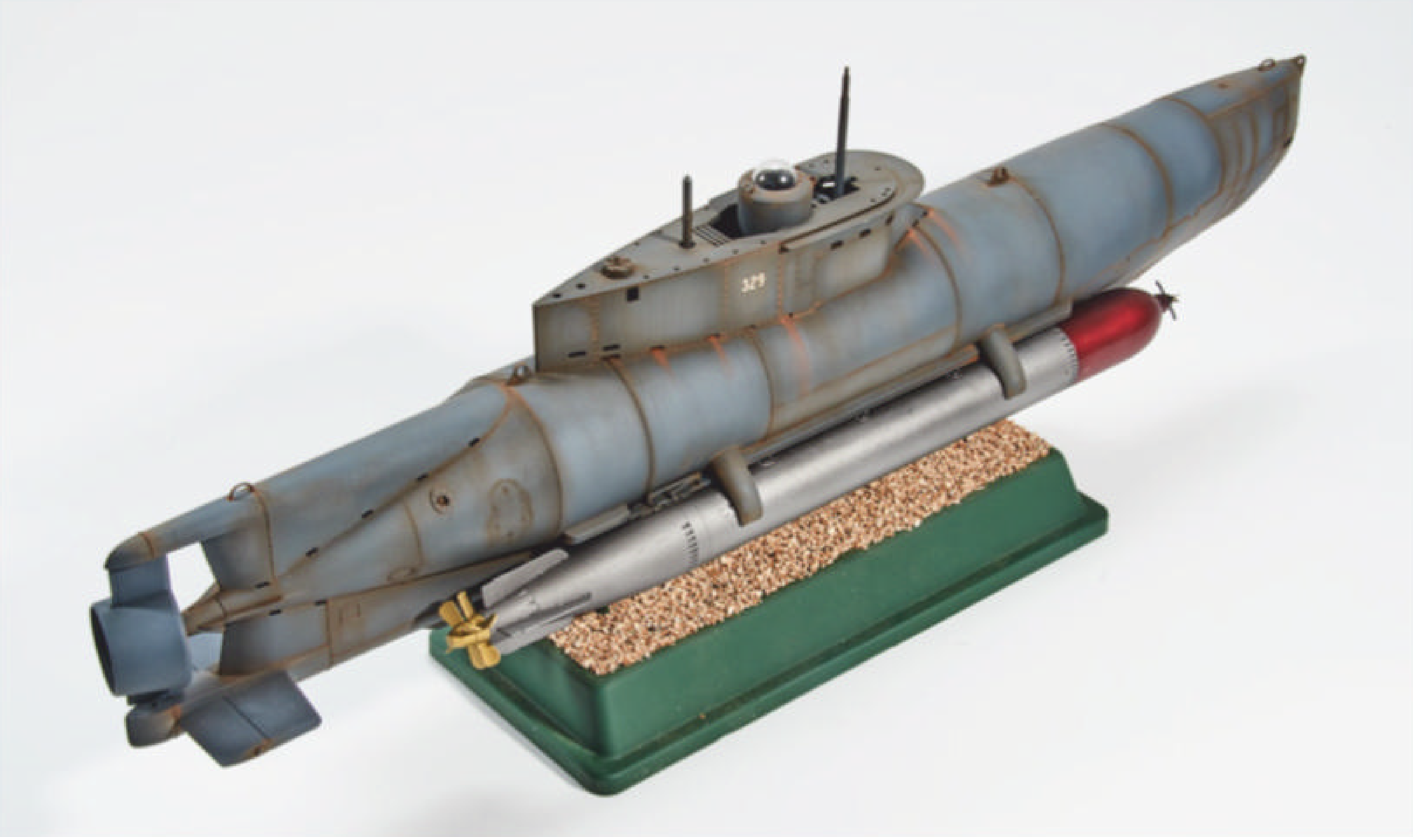


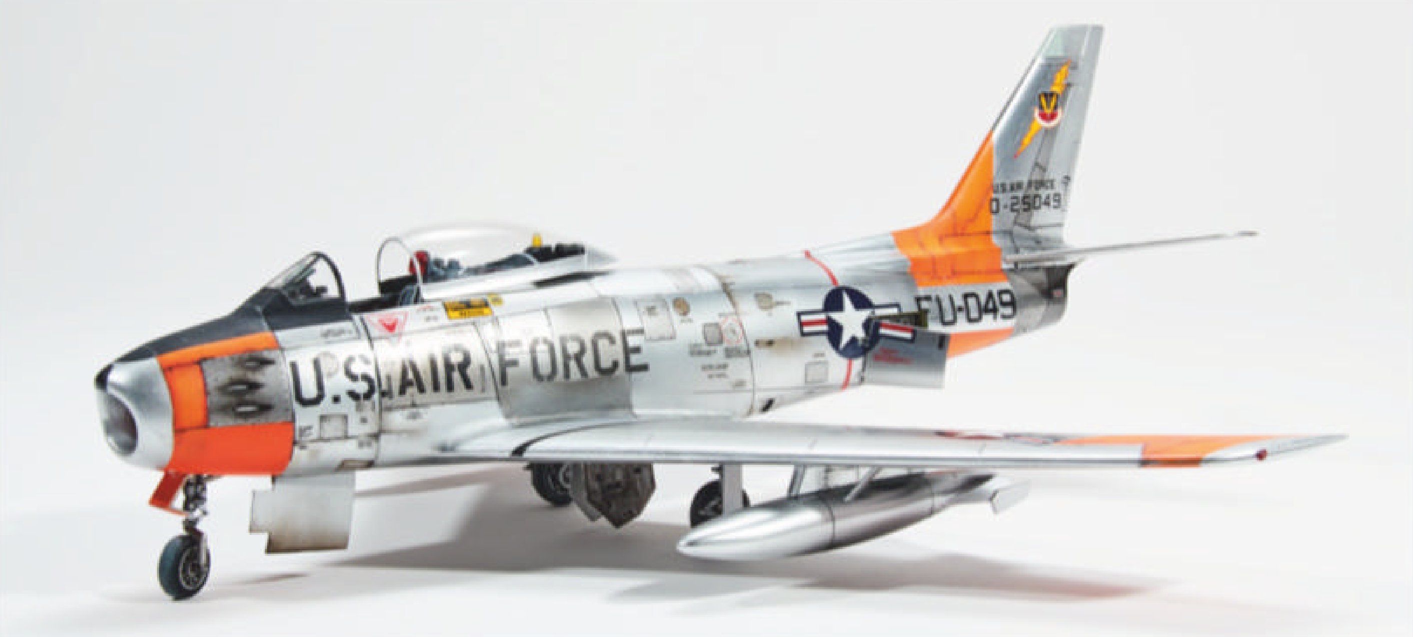




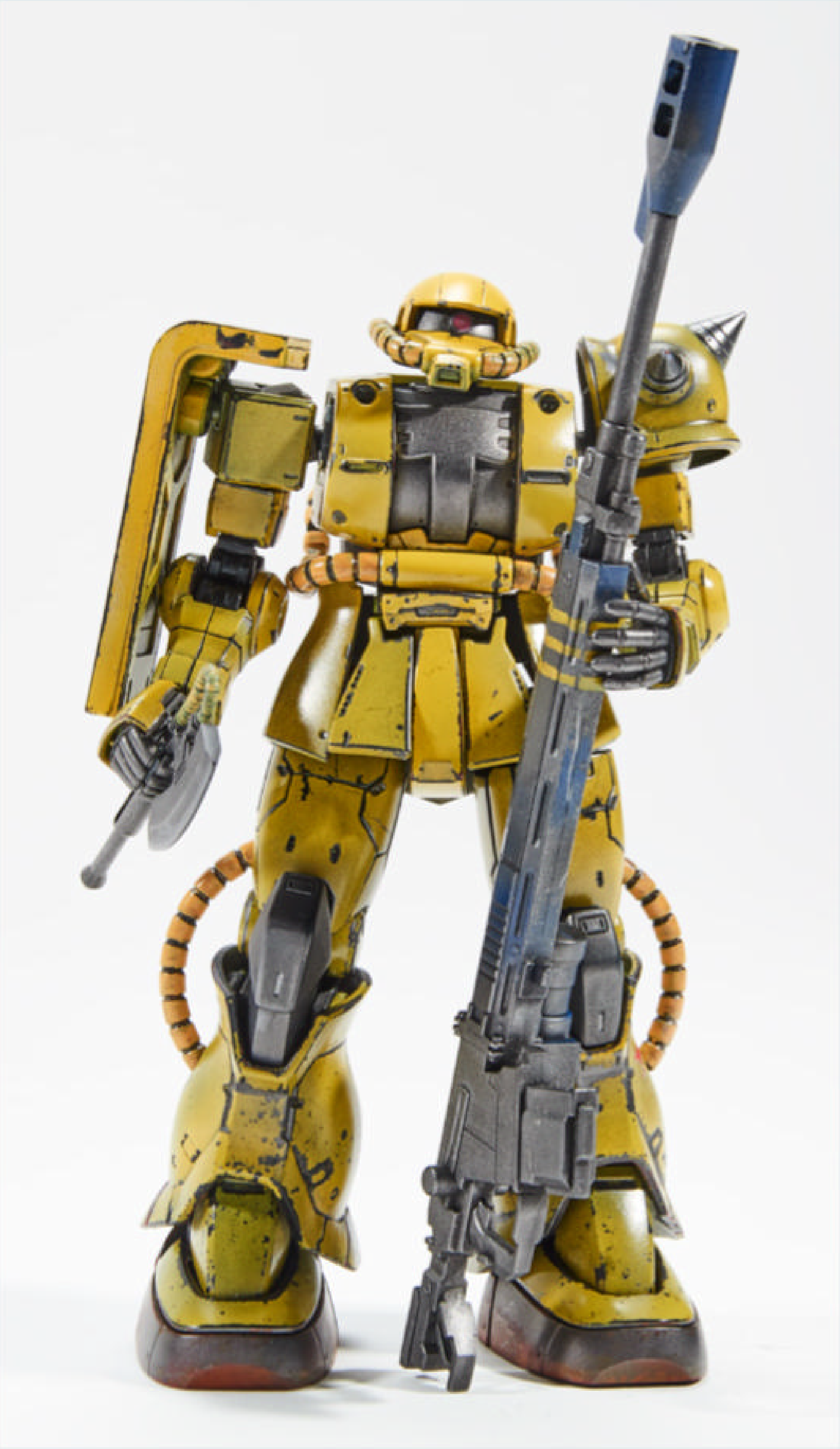
◀ **CAMERON CORLESS**
RIVERTON, UTAH
AK Interactive Real Colors paint dresses Cameron's 1/48 scale F-16 Aggressor in Alaskan splinter camo. He added a metal pitot tube and static dischargers along with resin exhaust and wheels to dress up the Tamiya kit.

▶ **MARK WALCOTT**
SNYDER, OKLAHOMA
Mark built his Bronco 1/35 scale German Seehund XXVIIB/B5 midget sub out of the box. He pre- and post-shaded the base coat and weathered with black artist-oil washes and pastels. The base came with the kit, but Mark added a bit of gravel to evoke the sea floor.





◀ **RAY ENGINEER**
GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA
Modeling a replica of a fighter his dad flew, Ray built a 1/48 North American F-86F marked for Nellis Air Force Base in 1965. He used a Quickboost ejection seat and scratchbuilt the turtledeck details. For paint, he chose Alclad II Chrome and Duraluminum and popped the panel lines with Tamiya wash.



▲ **DAVID GOLDFINCH**

CLYDE NORTH, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

"These are really fun kits," David says of his Bandai 1/144 Zaku II. He built his mobile suit out of the box and airbrushed Mr. Color Mr. Metal as an undercoat and went over it with SMS Yellow, using the hairspray technique for a worn effect.

► **KRISTY HERMANSON**

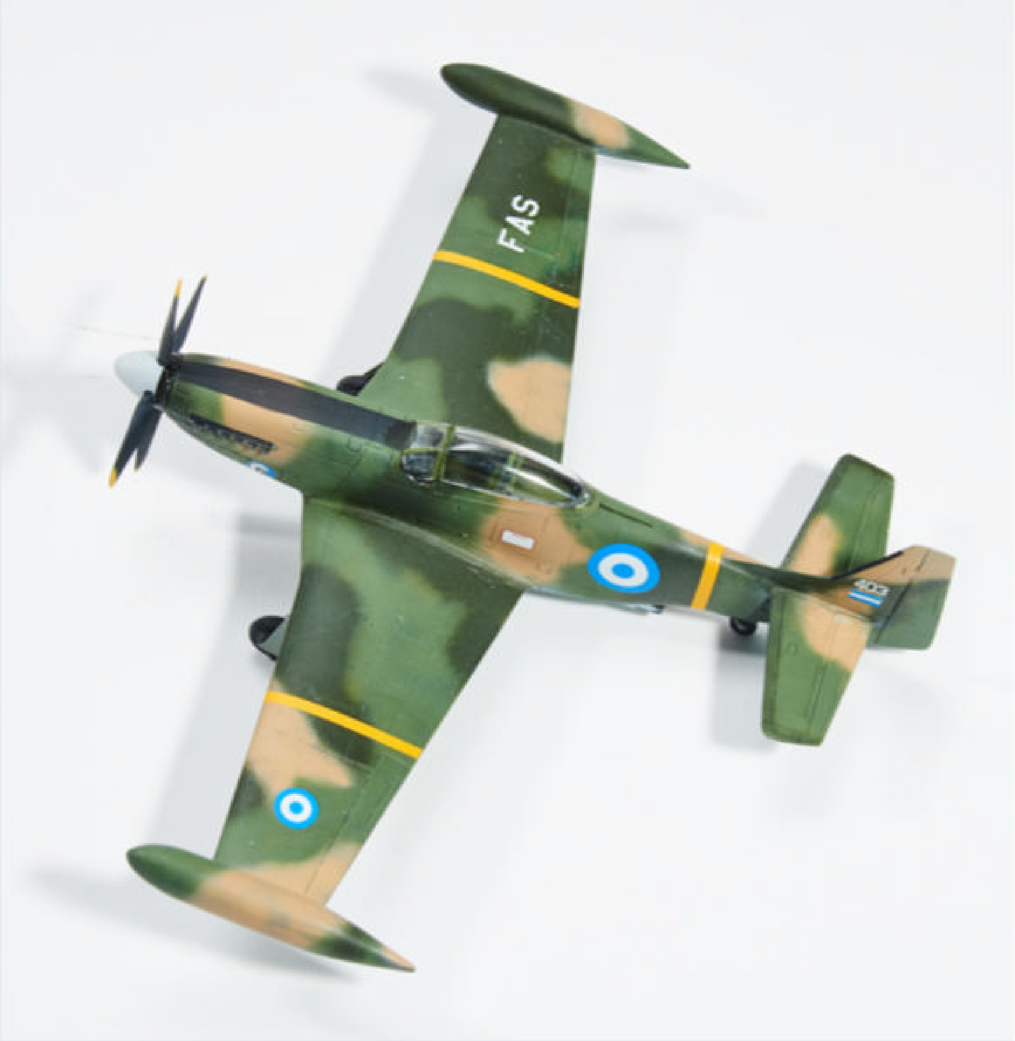
MANKATO, MINNESOTA

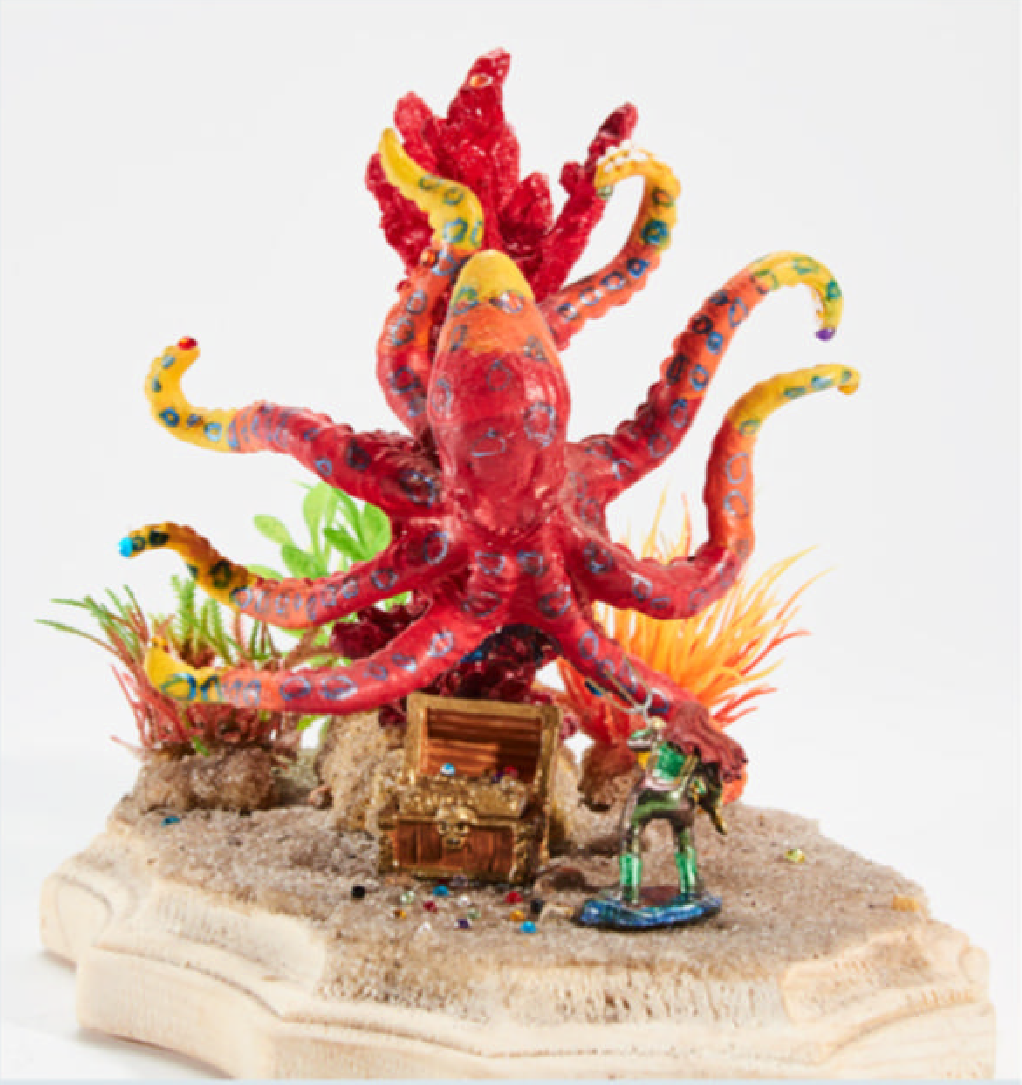
Kristy created this 28mm scene with gaming figures to depict Mera (from the *Aquaman* comic books) fighting a poisonous blue ring octopus. She painted the figures and coral stones with Vallejo acrylics and used gel pens to create the camouflage on the octopus.

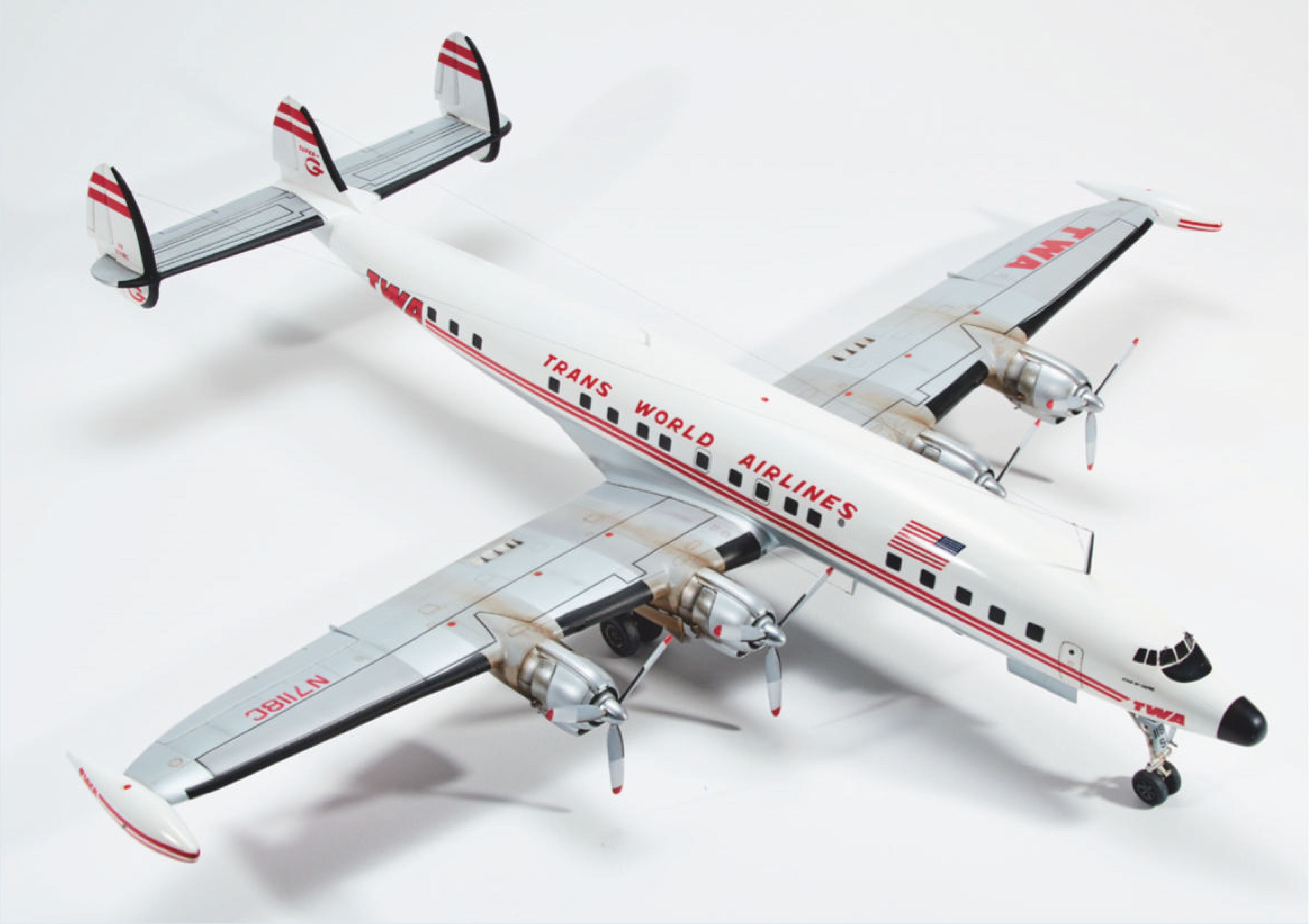
▼ **ELDON FLITTON**

LEHI, UTAH

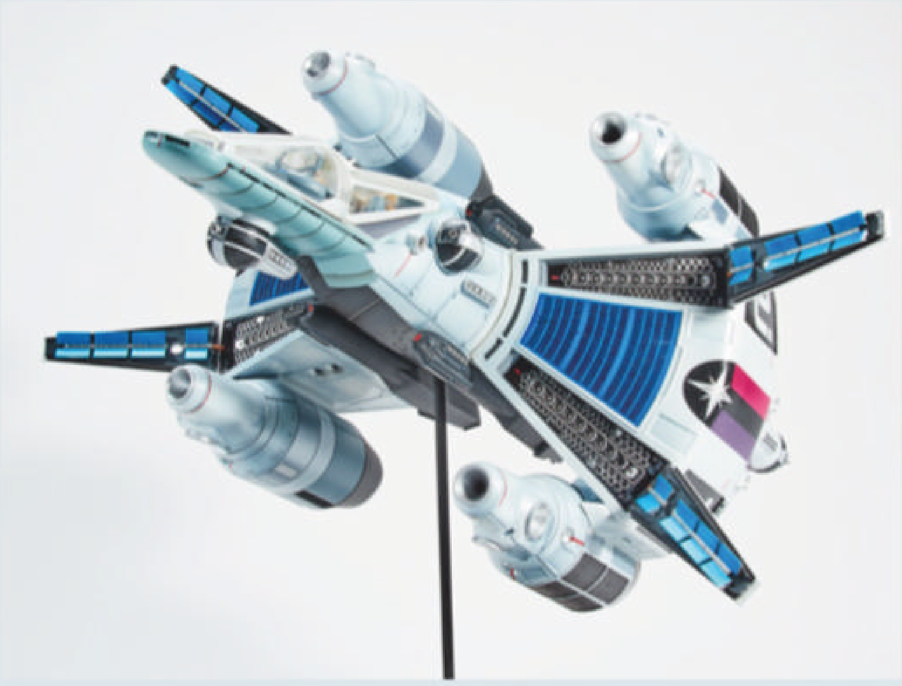
Eldon finished an Airfix 1/72 scale P-51D as a Cavalier in Salvadoran service. He replaced the kit wings with resin wings to emulate the Cavalier and airbrushed the camo freehand with Testors enamel through a Badger Krome.



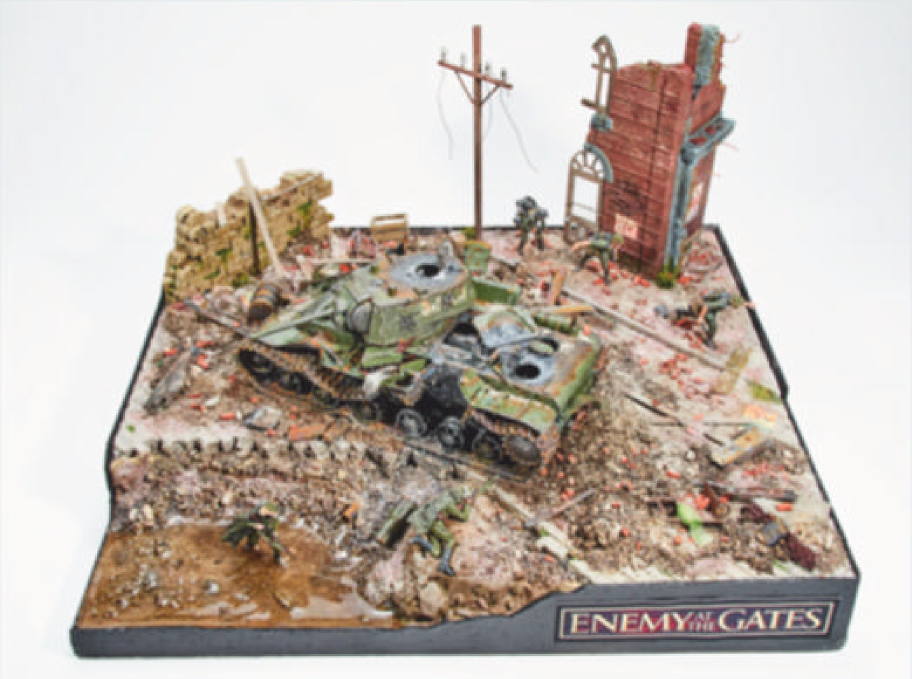




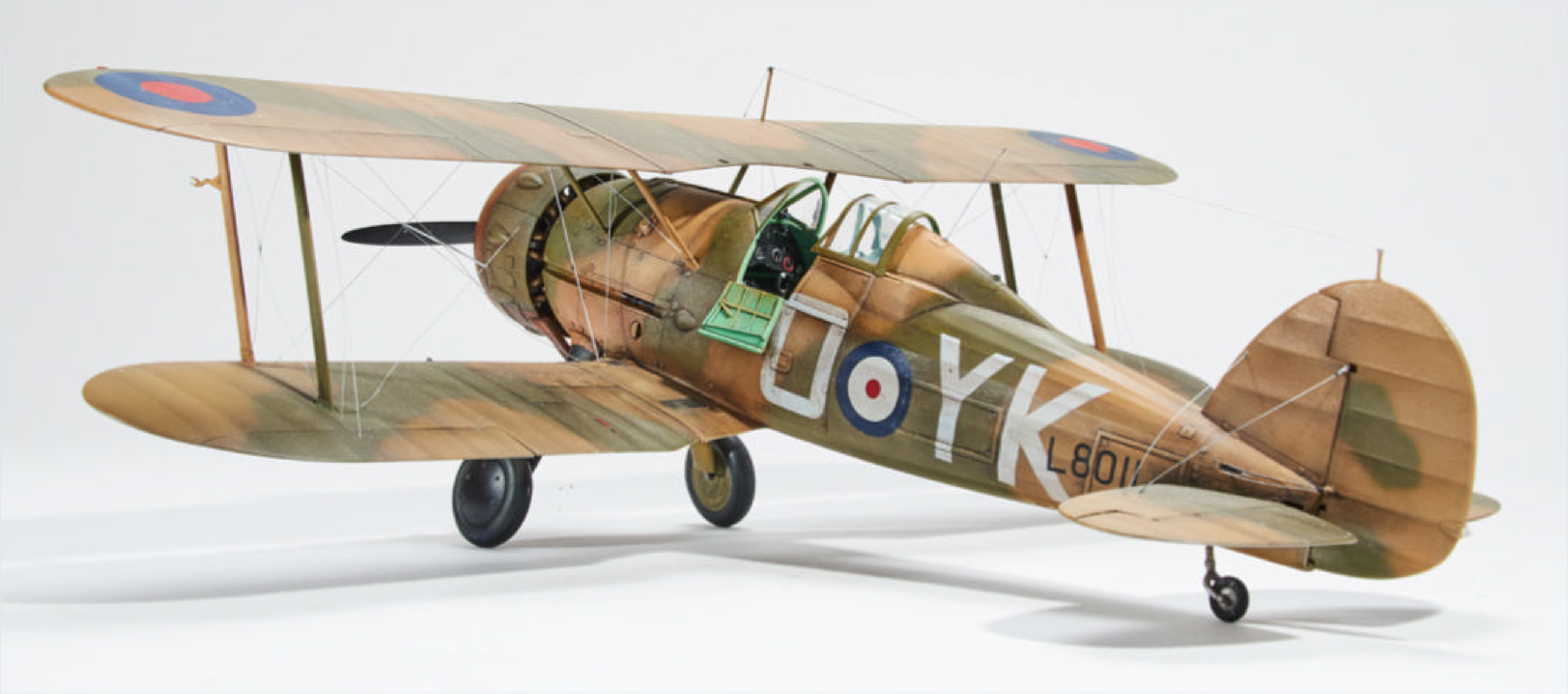
▲ KEN NILES
FAYETTEVILLE, GEORGIA
Sharp-dressed plane! Ken's build of the venerable Heller 1/72 scale Lockheed Constellation in TWA markings made an impression. He replaced the engines and nacelles with resin parts from Fisher Designs, flush-sanded the windows, scribed panel lines, and added full wheel-well detail. Ken used "lots of washes to illustrate the heavy staining from the engines and in the wheel wells."



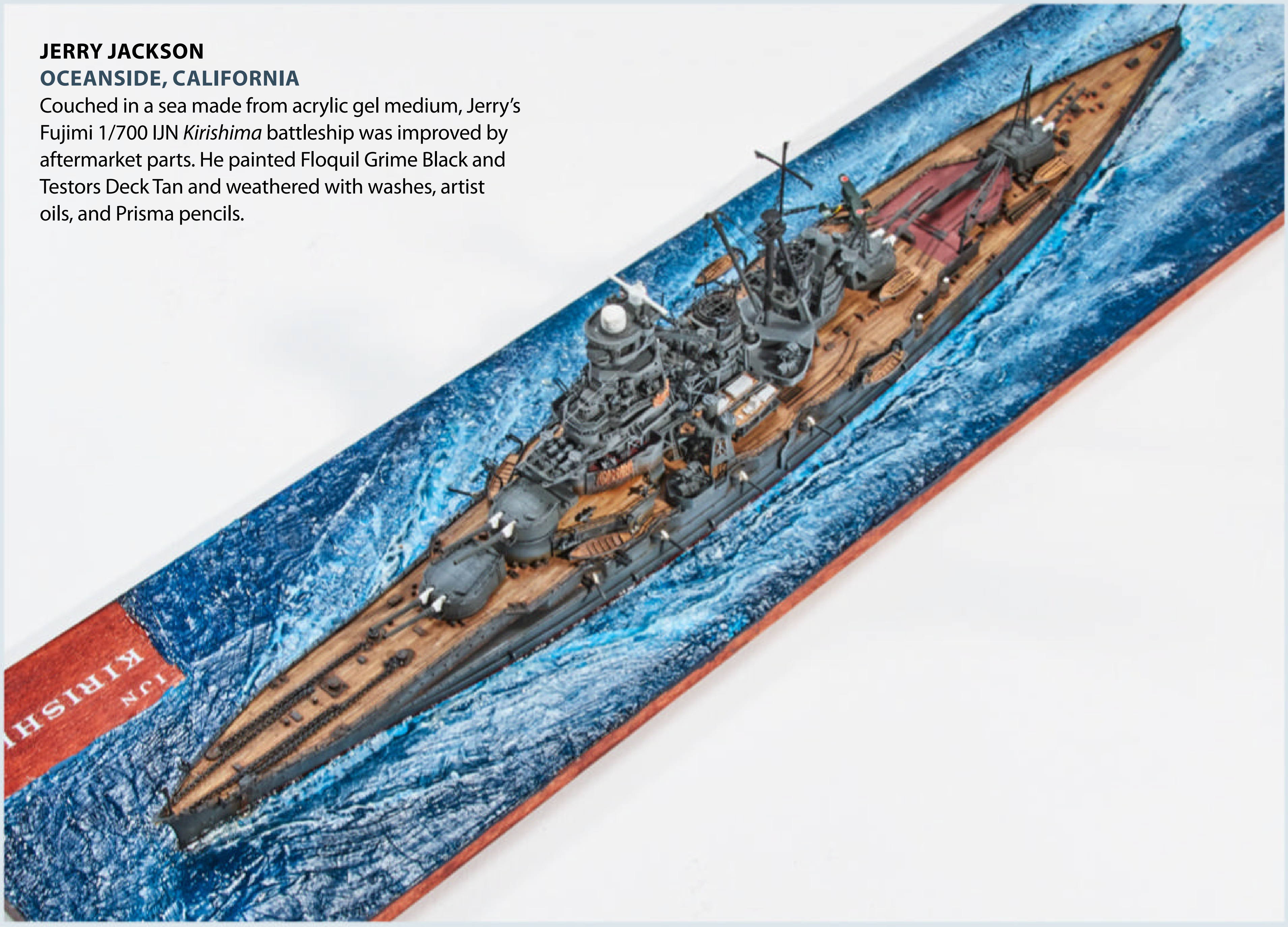
▲ DUNCAN SCOTT
MONROEVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA
Duncan primed and pre-shaded Black Sun Models 1/72 scale *Gunstar 1* with dark green, top-coated with a 50/50 mix of Tamiya Pearl and clear, and sandwiched various gray and metallic colors in between.



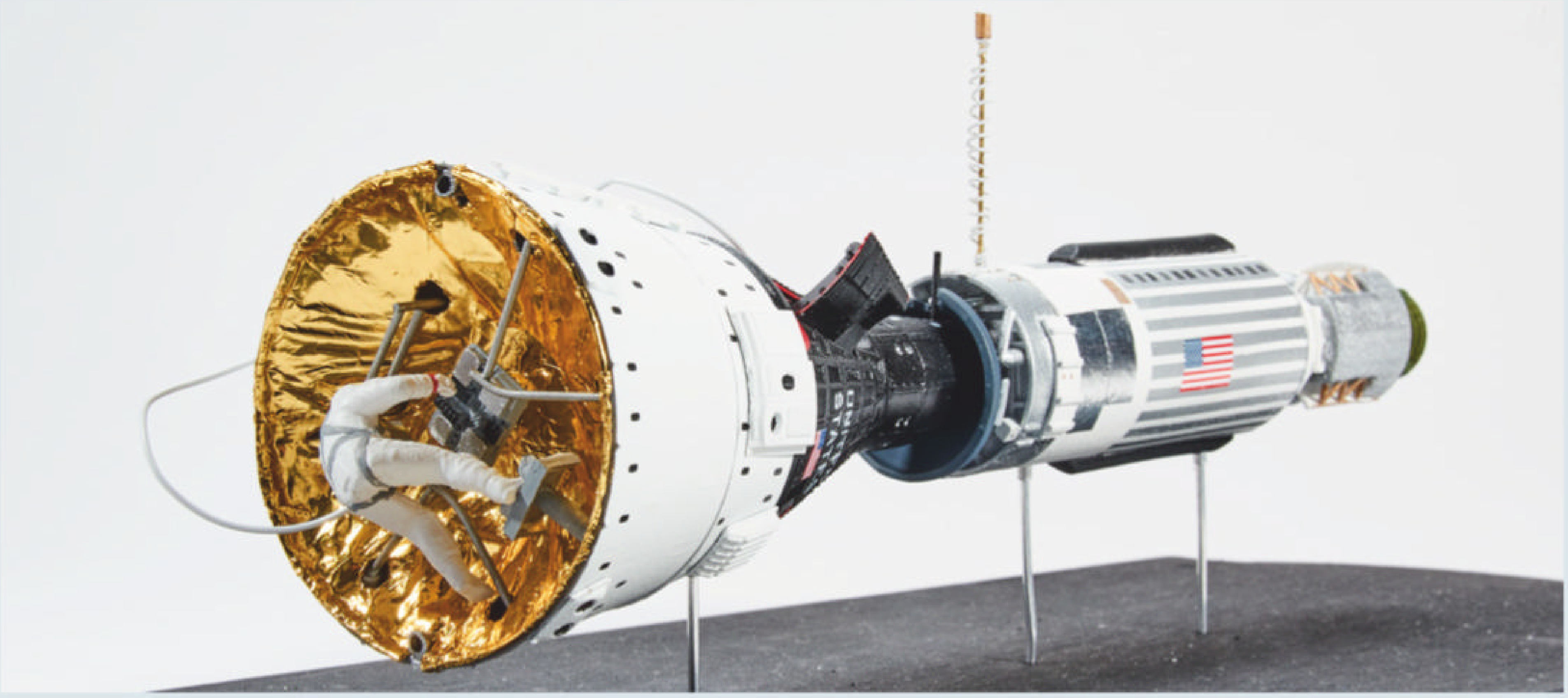
▲ MARTIN DRAYTON
PARK CITY, UTAH
Martin was inspired to build a diorama by the movie *Enemy at the Gates*. He combined various model kits and figures from several manufacturers and painted with acrylics and oils.



▲ BRIAN KANEFSKY
STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT
Brian's ICM 1/32 scale Gloster Gladiator Mk.I represents a plane in France early during World War II. He added photo-etched metal seat belts and rigged with E-Z Line and monofilament wire. Brian painted with AK Interactive acrylic paints and weathered with washes, pigments, and pastels.



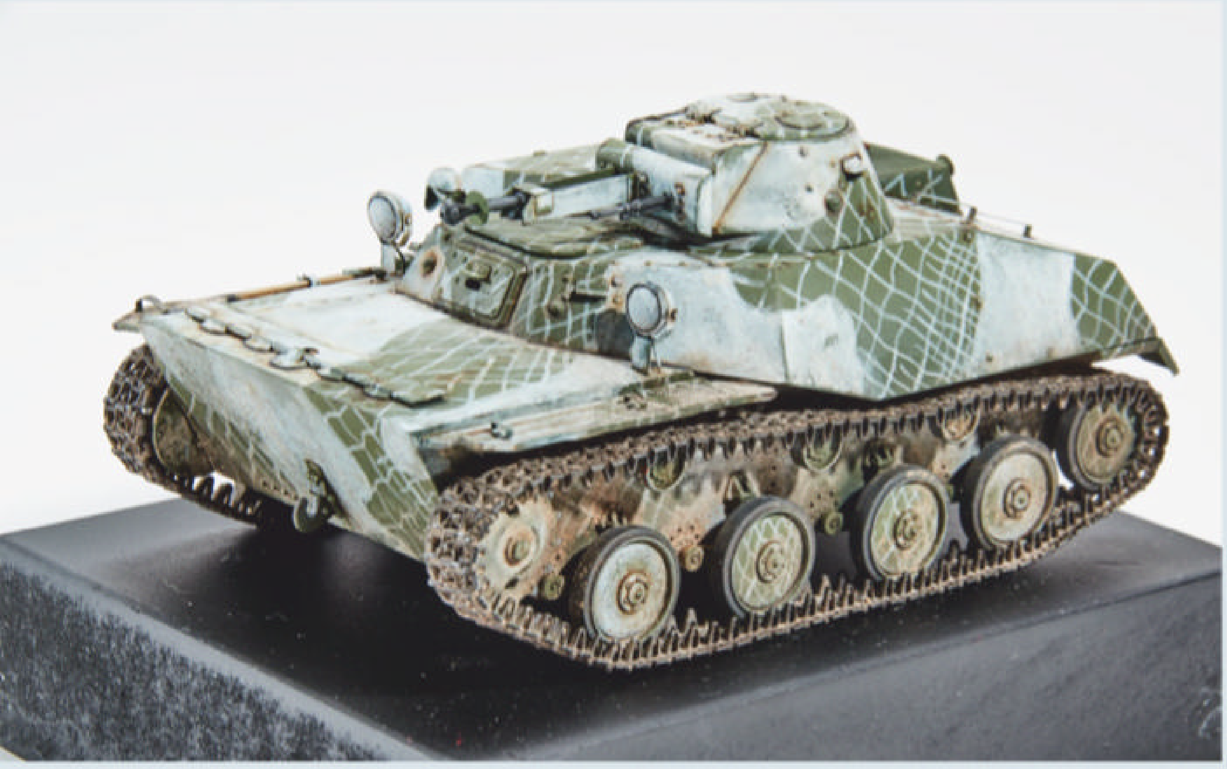
JERRY JACKSON
OCEANSIDE, CALIFORNIA
Couched in a sea made from acrylic gel medium, Jerry's Fujimi 1/700 IJN *Kirishima* battleship was improved by aftermarket parts. He painted Floquil Grime Black and Testors Deck Tan and weathered with washes, artist oils, and Prisma pencils.



▲ **RICHARD ROBISON**

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

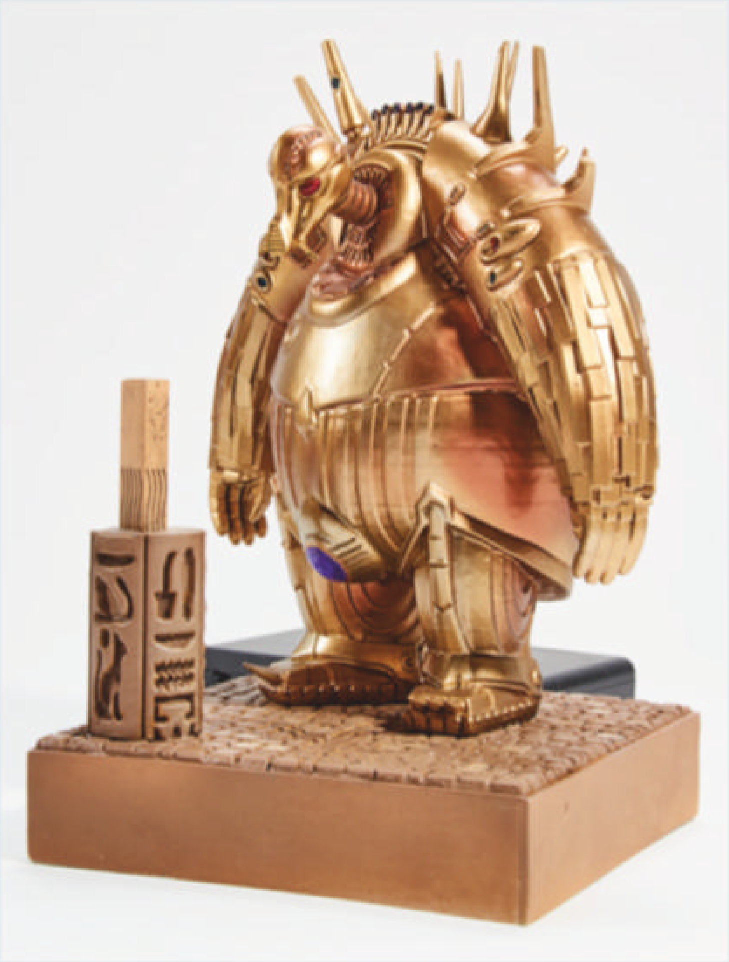
In November 1966, Gemini 12 docked with the Agena target vehicle and Buzz Aldrin performed a spacewalk to test handholds, foot restraints, and other harness methods. Richard used Revell and Real Space Models kits to recreate this historic moment in 1/48 scale.



▲ **BRYAN KRUEGER**

DENVER, COLORADO

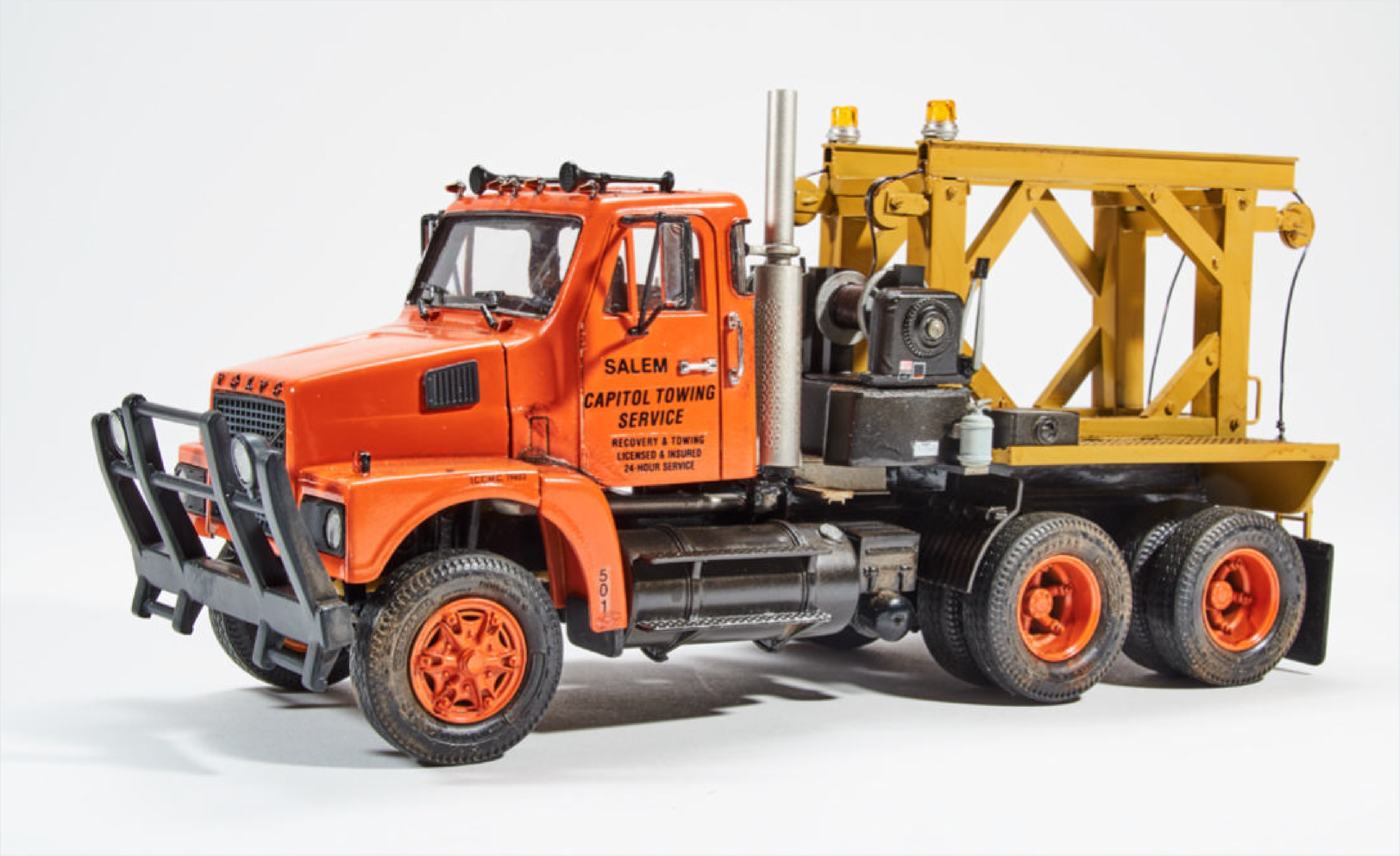
If you've never seen a T-40 in this camo scheme before, don't feel bad: It was experimental and only a rare few wore it. Bryan built a HobbyBoss 1/35 scale kit for his special tank and brought up the accuracy with a Voyager photo-etched metal set. He airbrushed the 4BO base coat and hand-painted the camo to match references. To weather, he applied a mix of oil and enamel washes and filters and added a bit of dust with pigments.



▲ **SCOTT SCARIOT**

PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

Scott 3D-printed all the parts for his Mondoshawan seen in *The Fifth Element* from files at Thingiverse.com. He painted with various Alclad II colors with his Iwata Eclipse. Scott used Vallejo washes to pick out details and then lighted the figure's eyes and belly jewel.


SALEM
CAPITOL TOWING SERVICE
RECOVERY & TOWING
LICENSED & INSURED
24-HOUR SERVICE
VOLVO
501

▲ **FRED BELL**

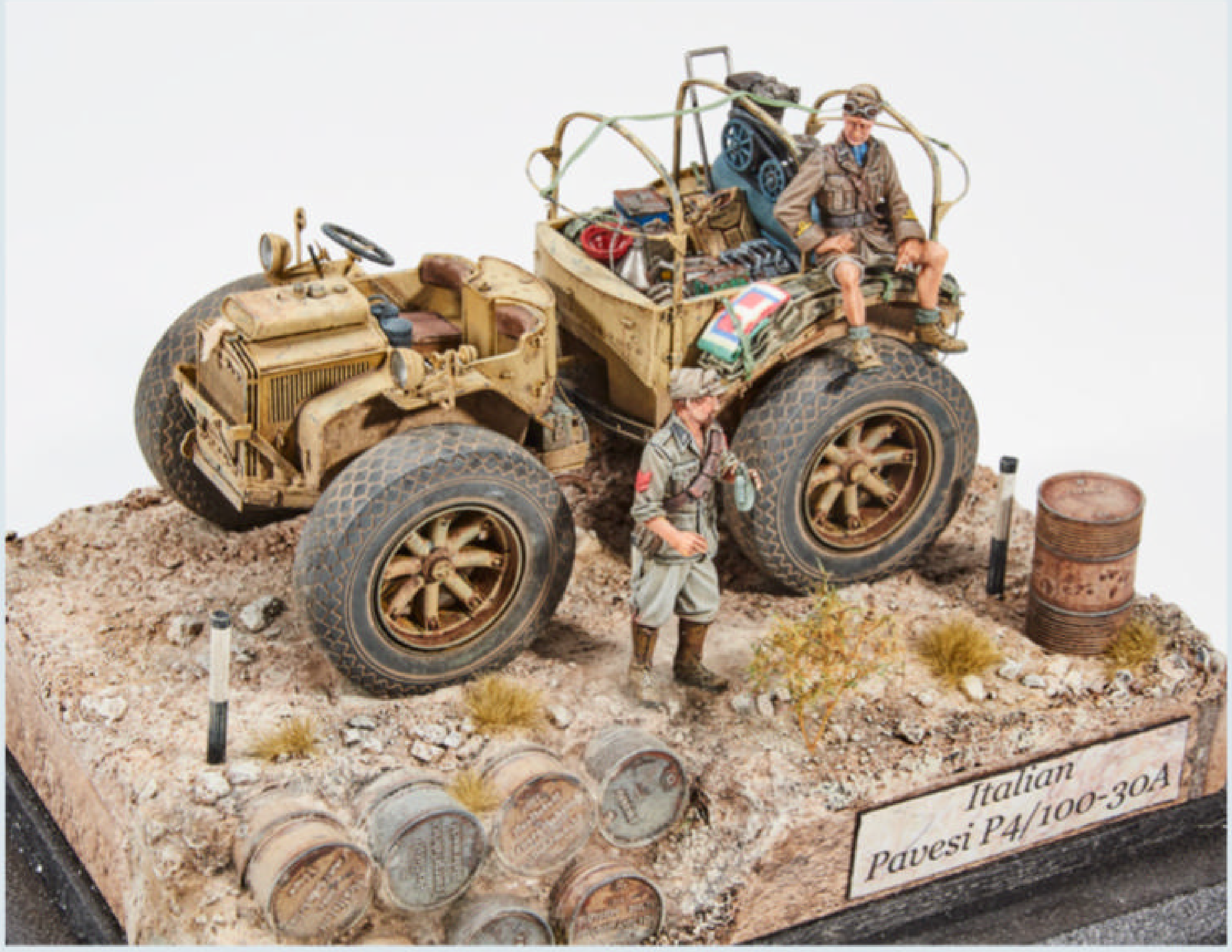
KEENESBURG, COLORADO

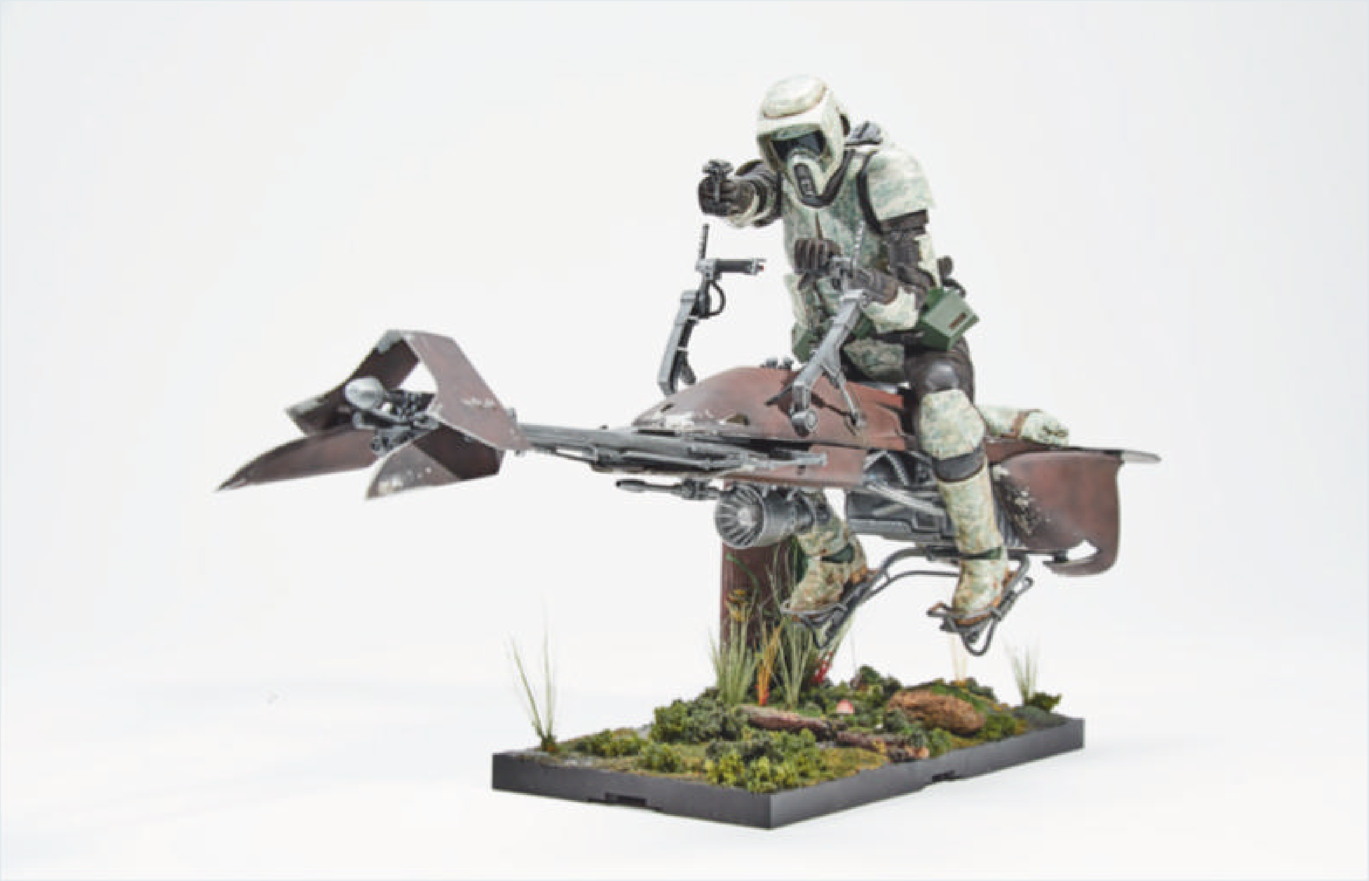
Inspired by a photo, Fred converted an AMT/Ertl 1/25 scale Volvo semi-tractor into a tow truck. He built the truck mostly out of the box, adding an aluminum exhaust, and scratchbuilt the tow unit. He painted with Krylon Safety Orange and Safety Yellow over Dupli-Color primer.

▶ **TONY ZADRO**

MARIETTA, GEORGIA

Plus Model produced a 1/35 scale kit of the unusual Pavesi P4/100-30A, and Tony finished it for service in North Africa. He added bolts, stowage, canopy, and figures to complete the vignette. He made the groundwork from polymer clay and kitty litter.


Italian
Pavesi P4/100-30A



◀ **BRIAN LEITCH**

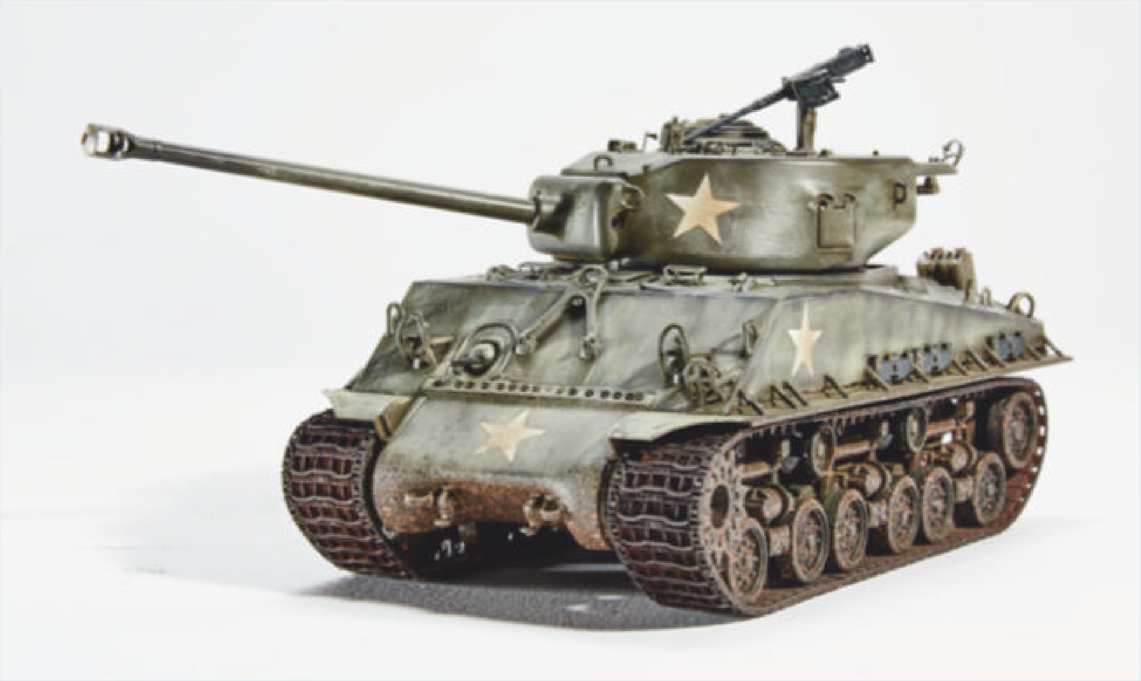
OMAHA, NEBRASKA

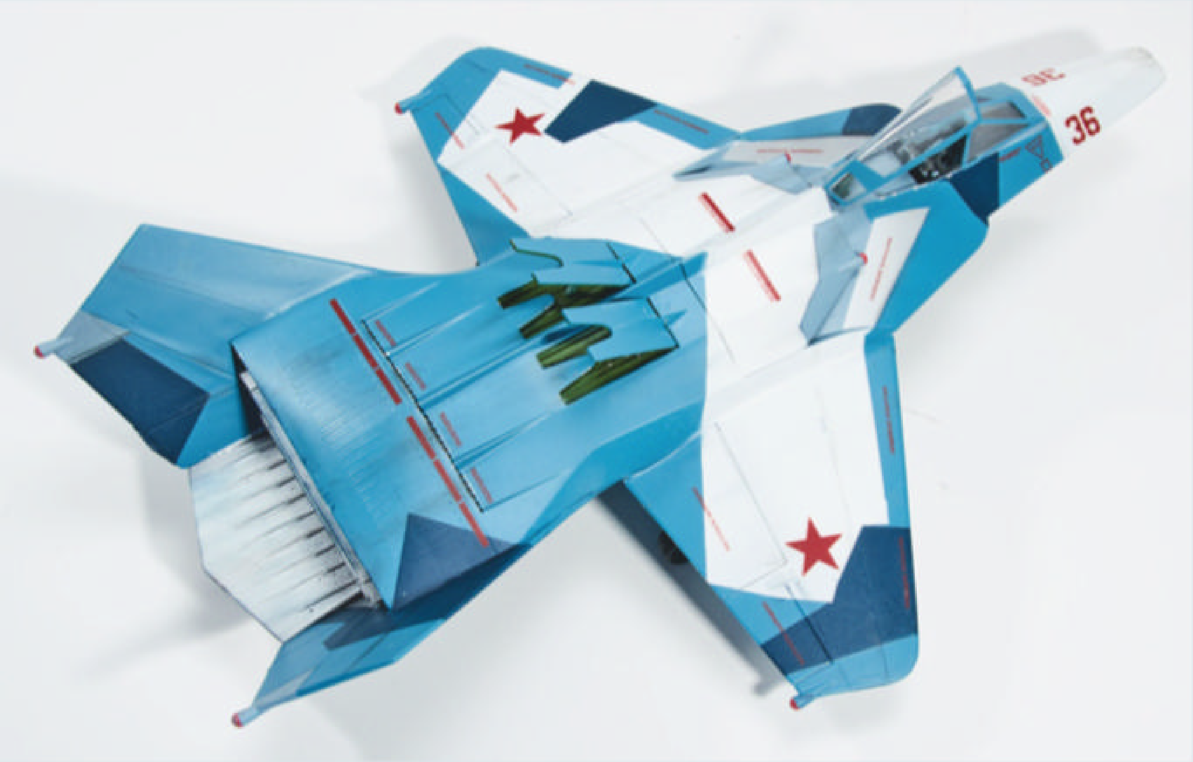
This speeder biker is in hot pursuit of rebel Wookies on Kashyyyk! Brian built a 1/12 scale Bandai *Star Wars* kit and added landscaping to the base and camouflage decals to the trooper. He finished the model with acrylic paints, artist oils, washes, and pastels.

▶ **ABE SCOTT**

NORWAY, IOWA

Junior modeler Abe constructed a Tamiya 1/35 scale M4A3E8 Sherman “Easy Eight.” He built it out of the box, airbrushed it Tamiya Olive Drab, weathered the body with Tamiya pigments, and dirtied the tracks with pigments from AK Interactive.



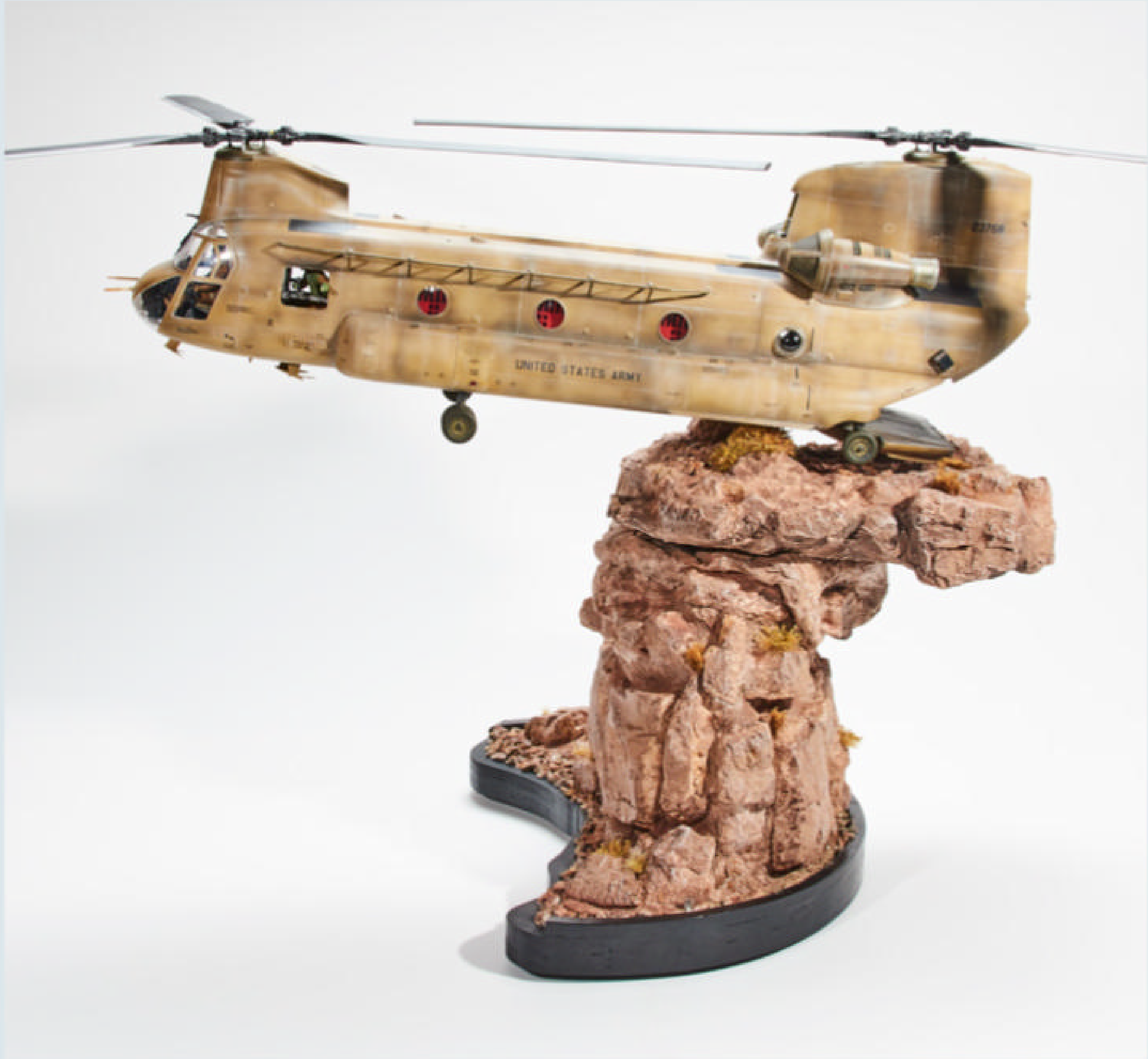


◀ **MICHAL KANEFSKY**

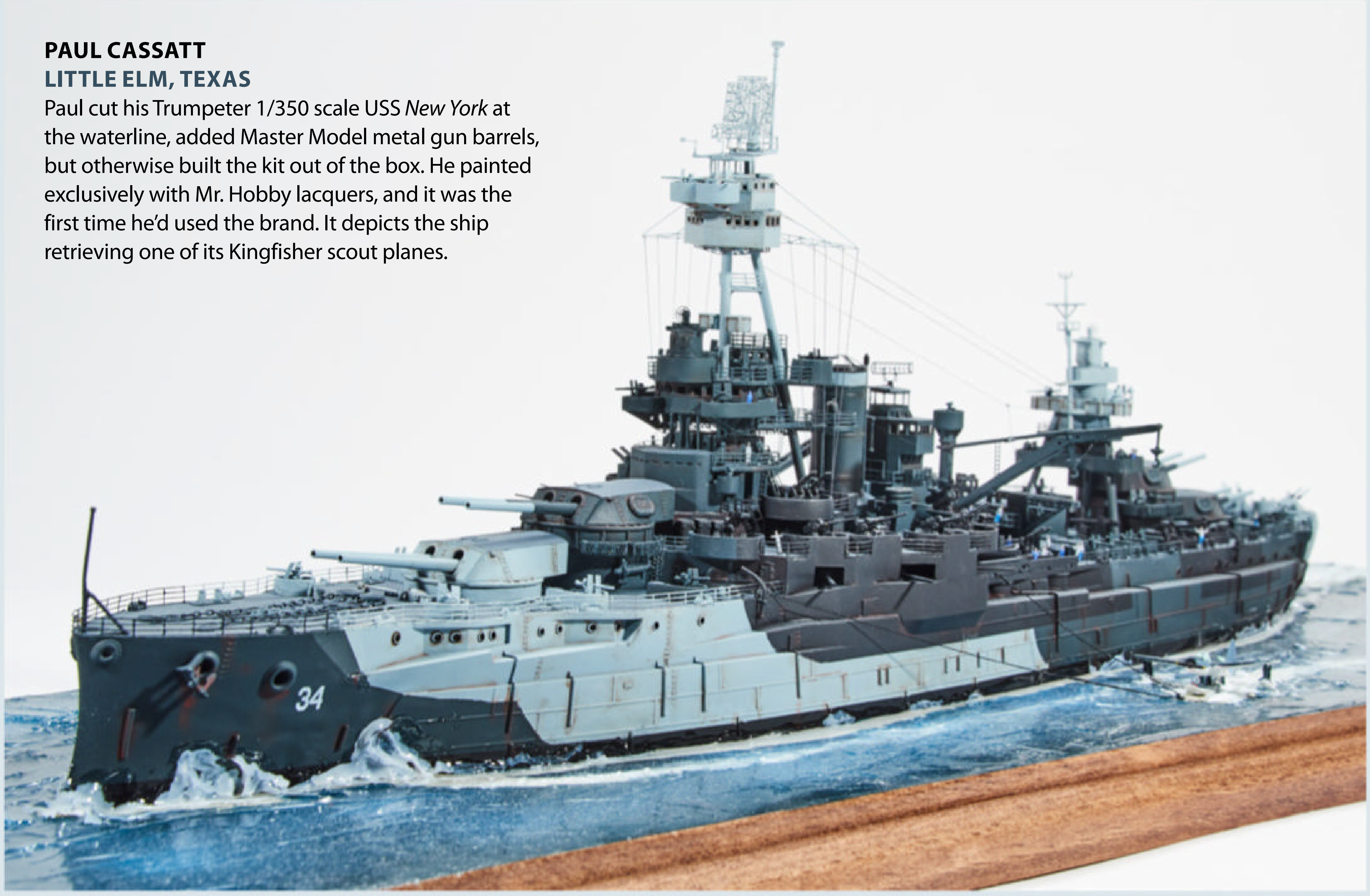
STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT

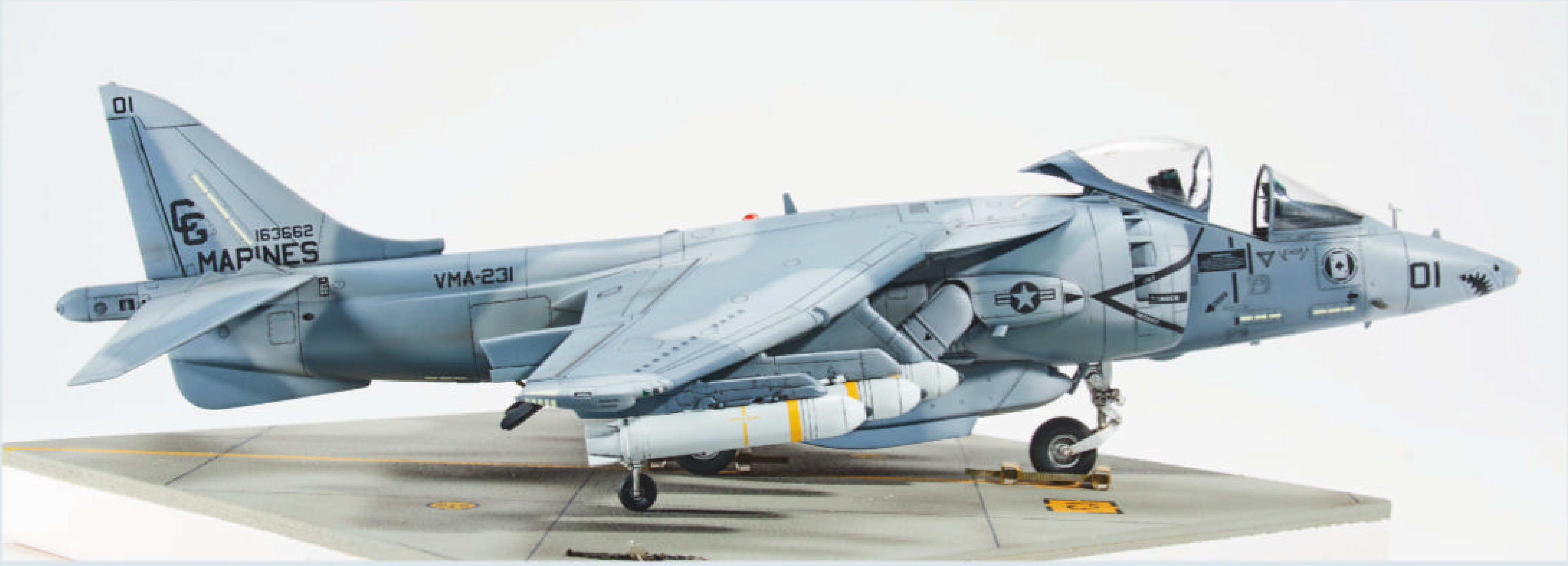
Reaching for an older kit, junior modeler Michal brought a Testors-imagined 1/48 scale MiG-37B “Ferret-E” stealth fighter to the show. She built it from the box and painted with Tamiya acrylics with her Iwata airbrush and lightly weathered with washes and pastels.

► KURT KRANS
TULSA, OKLAHOMA
This model of a pinnacle landing features a Trumpeter 1/35 scale CH-47D Chinook. Kurt made the rocks out of plaster over a wire frame with steel supports. Brass tubes support the heli. He painted with Mr. Hobby colors and weathered with Ammo by Mig Jimenez products.

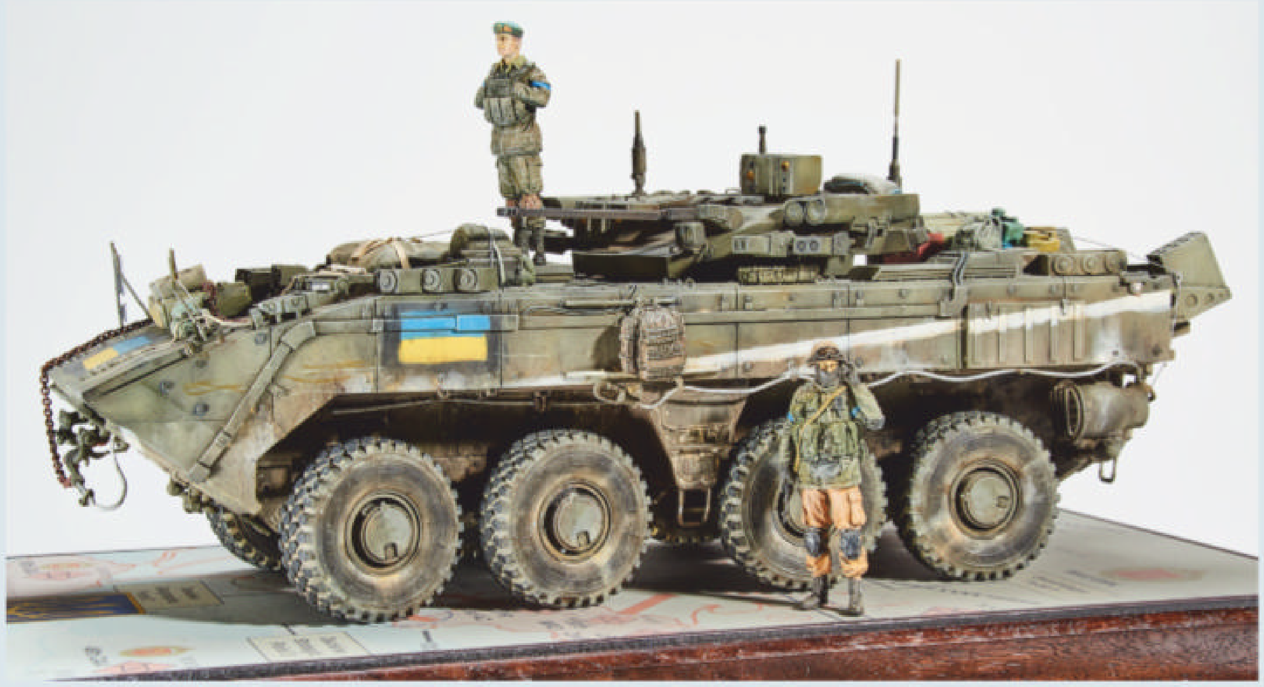


PAUL CASSATT
LITTLE ELM, TEXAS
Paul cut his Trumpeter 1/350 scale USS *New York* at the waterline, added Master Model metal gun barrels, but otherwise built the kit out of the box. He painted exclusively with Mr. Hobby lacquers, and it was the first time he'd used the brand. It depicts the ship retrieving one of its Kingfisher scout planes.



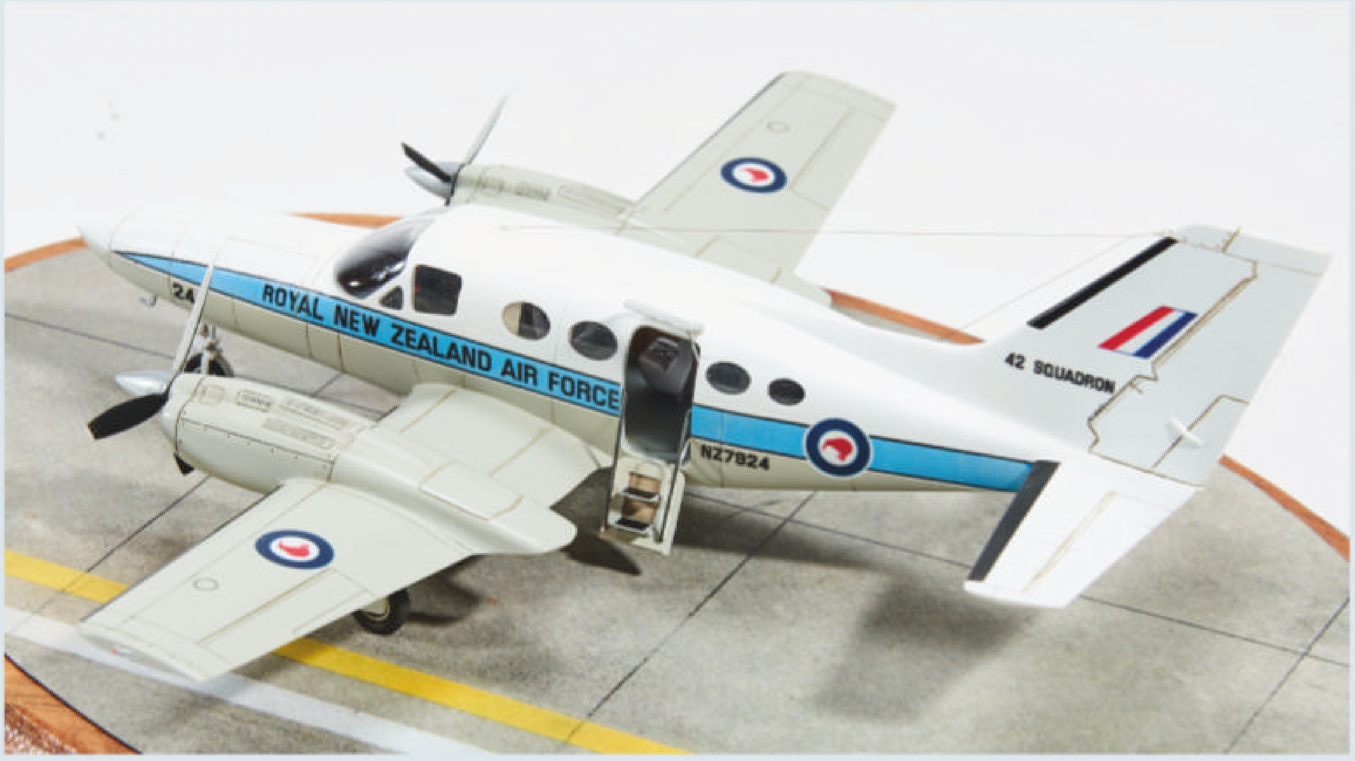


▲ ANDREW WHITE
HOLLYWOOD, MARYLAND
Andrew tucked HobbyBoss Mk.20 cluster bombs under the wings of his Hasegawa 1/48 scale AV-8B Harrier II. Painted to represent a Harrier operating out of Saudi Arabia during Operation Desert Storm in 1991, he used Mr. Hobby acrylics.

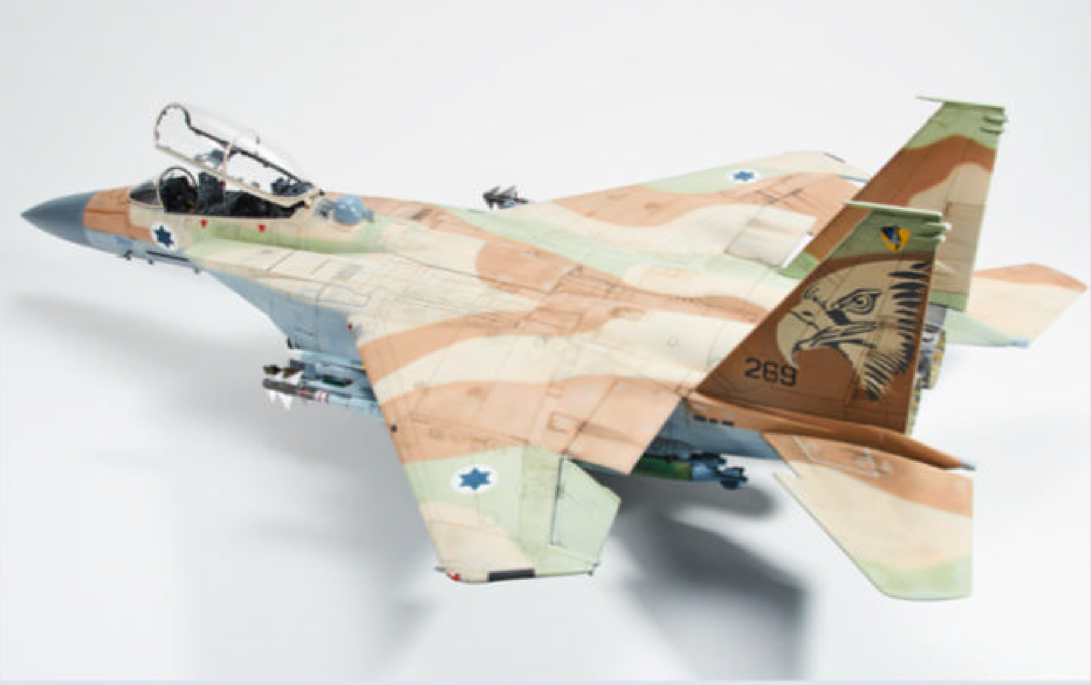


◀ STAN SPOONER
BOERNE, TEXAS
Stan's Zvezda 1/35 scale K-17 Bumerang IFV was brought up to current operational standards with scratchbuilt updates, including suspended smoke grenade launchers, anti-personnel frag grenade launchers, additional armor plates, light guards and steps, electronic armatures, and forward and rear TV cameras. He finished it in Ukrainian service.

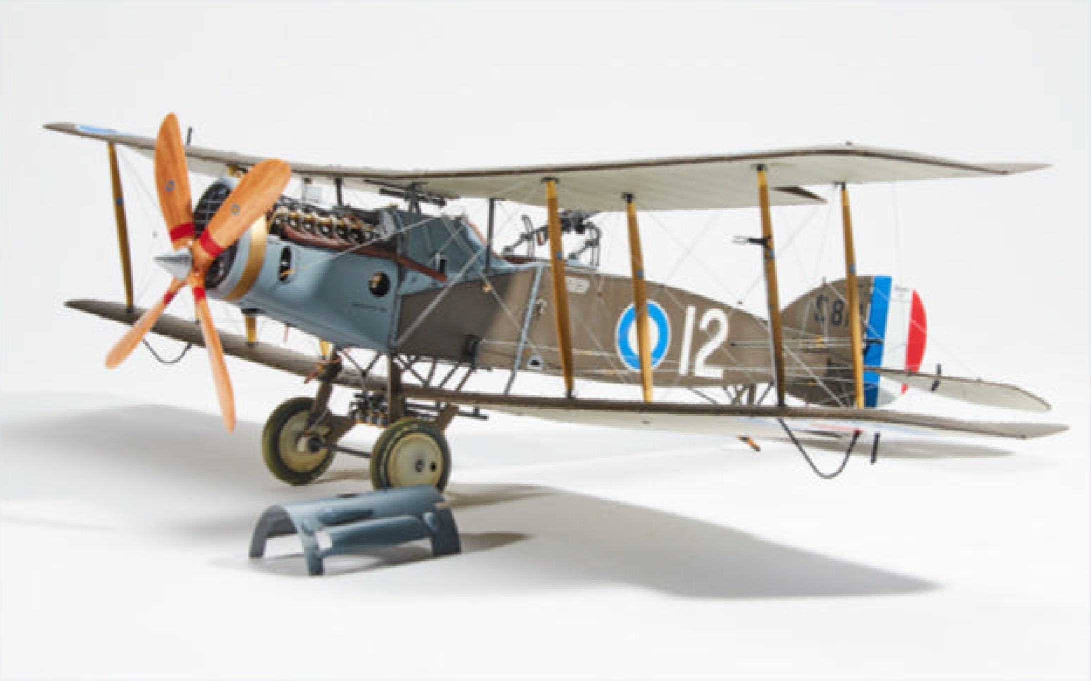
▶ ALEXANDRE BIGEY
PAPEETE, TAHITI
Alexandre made his own clear parts for an Aircast Resin 1/72 scale Cessna H21C Golden Eagle and cut open the door in back. He painted with Tamiya lacquers decanted from the spray can. A light wash accented panel lines.



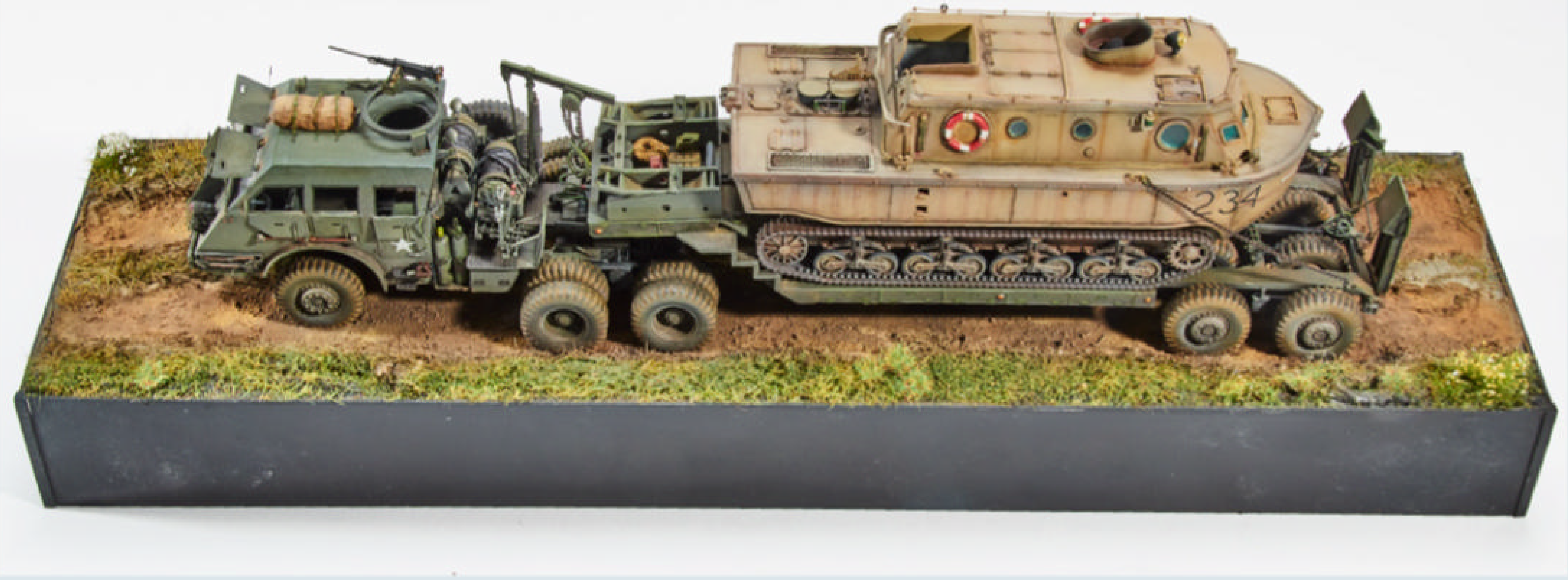
► JIM CLARK
SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA
Jim converted a Tamiya 1/32 F-15C Eagle into an Israeli Defense Force F-15I. He painted with Mr. Color lacquers and masked and airbrushed all the markings.

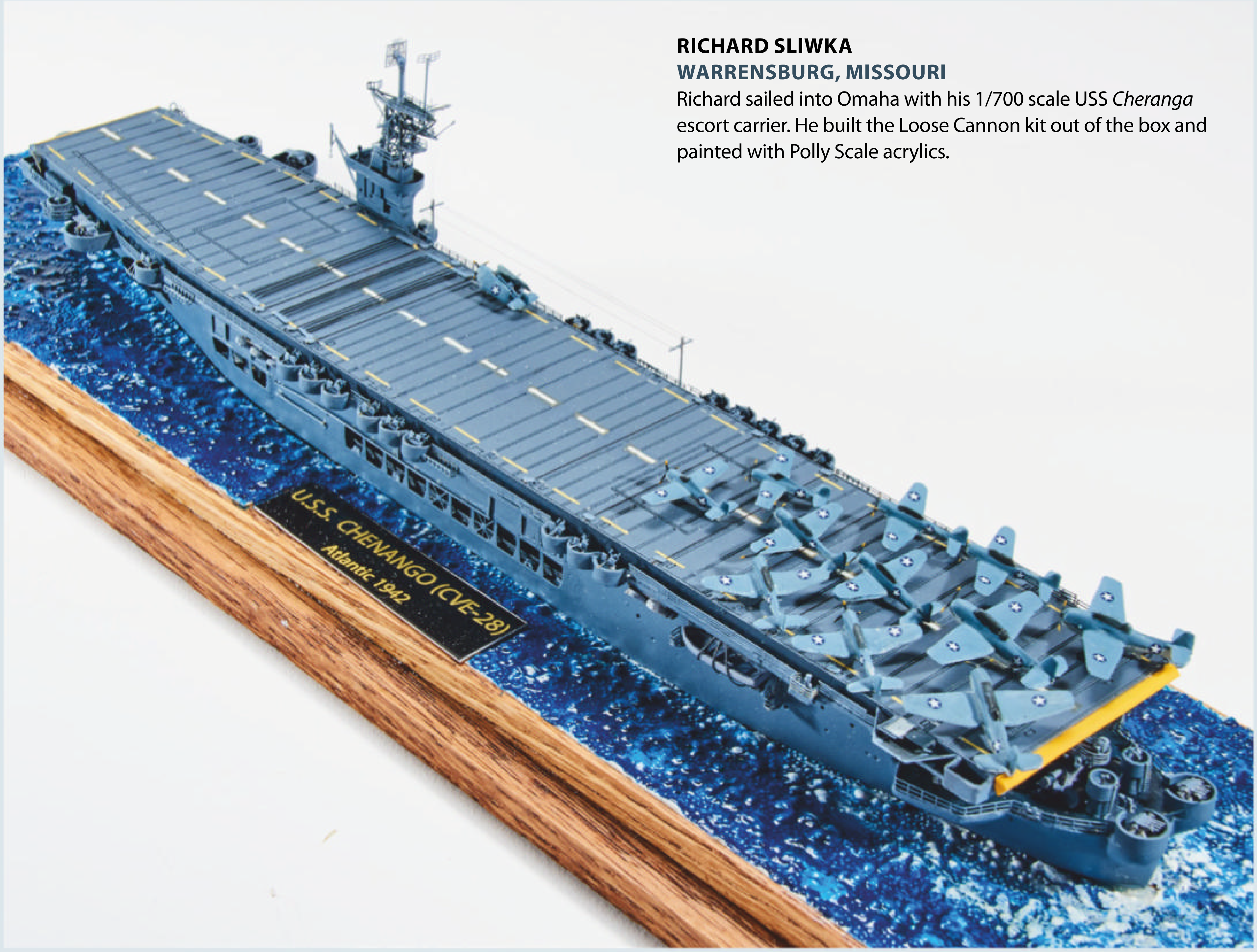


► BOB STEINBRUNN
PHELPS, WISCONSIN
Bob's Wingnut Wings 1/32 scale Bristol R.2B fighter is pulled by a laminated cherry-wood prop and rigged with white E-Z Line colored with a silver Sharpie. He airbrushed khaki drab, masked the wing ribs, the airbrushed a light coat of Tamiya Smoke, and repeated the process for the underside. He lightened the khaki drab and painted that between panels to indicate fading.

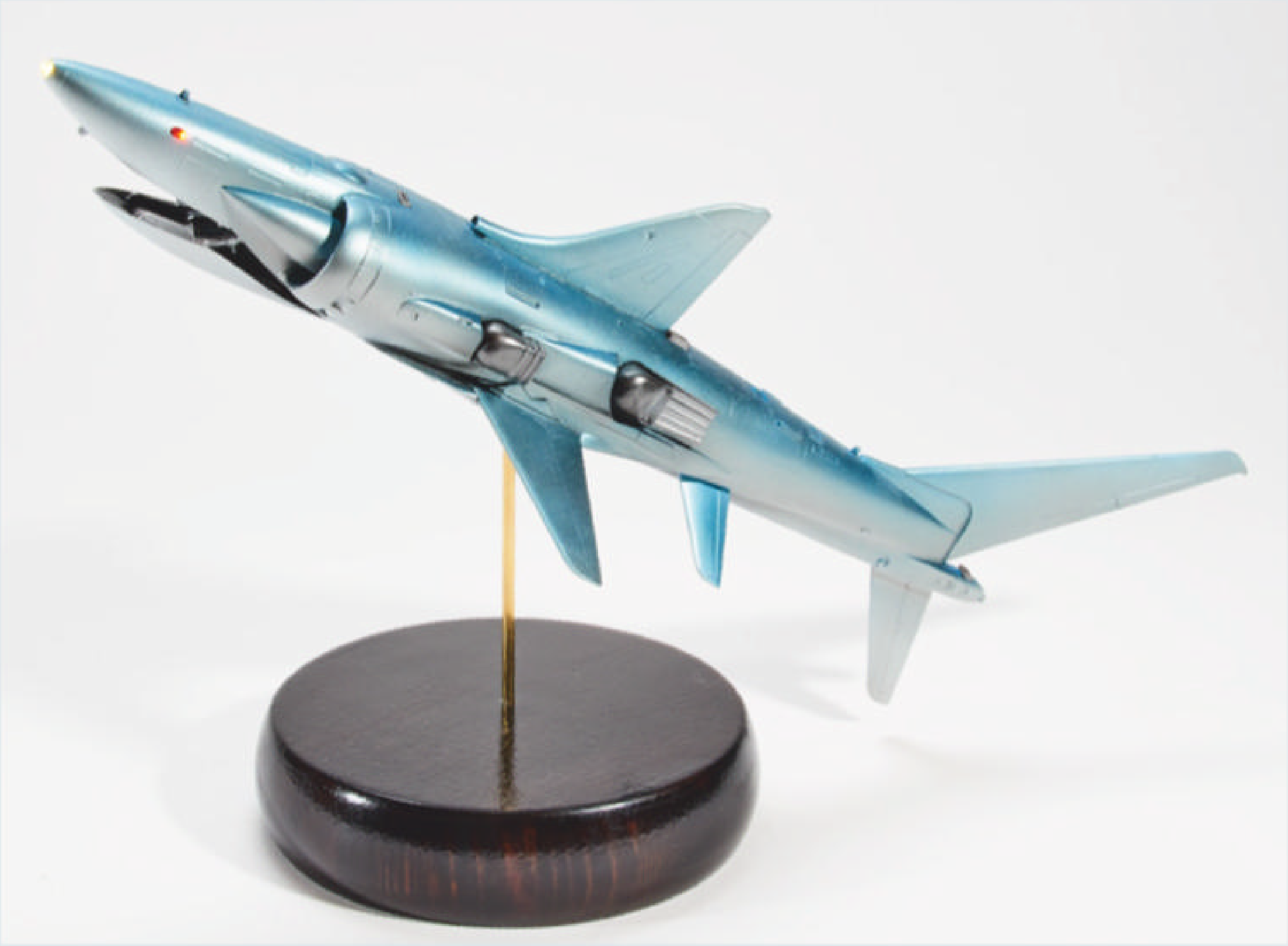


IAN DOW
LIVONIA, MICHIGAN
Here's the whole deal: a 1/72 scale M26 Dragon Wagon hauling a landwasserschlepper! Combining Academy and HobbyBoss kits, Ian created this amazing scene, adding Eduard photo-etched metal details, chains, blocks, stowage, and a scratchbuilt interior. He painted with Tamiya paints and weathered with Ammo by Mig Jimenez pigments.

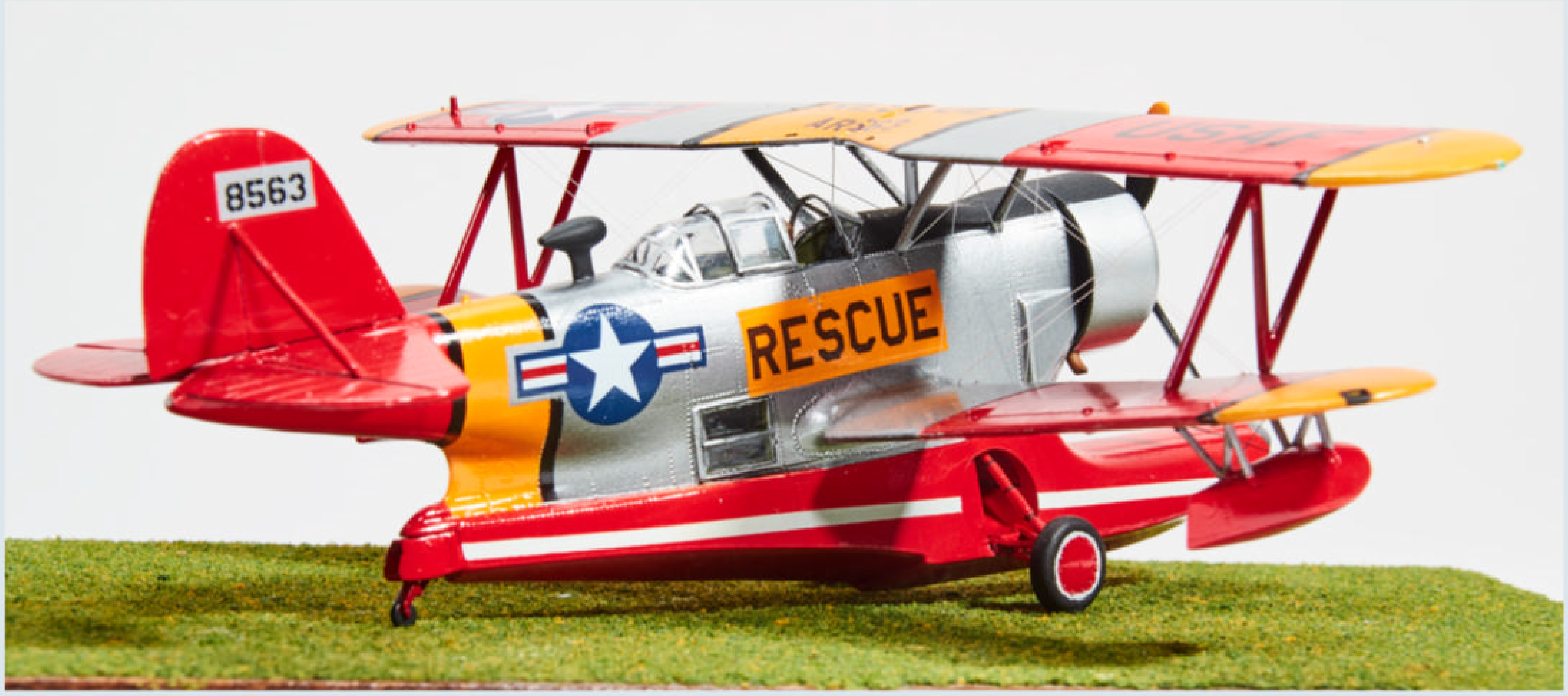




RICHARD SLIWKA
WARRENSBURG, MISSOURI
Richard sailed into Omaha with his 1/700 scale USS *Cheranga* escort carrier. He built the Loose Cannon kit out of the box and painted with Polly Scale acrylics.



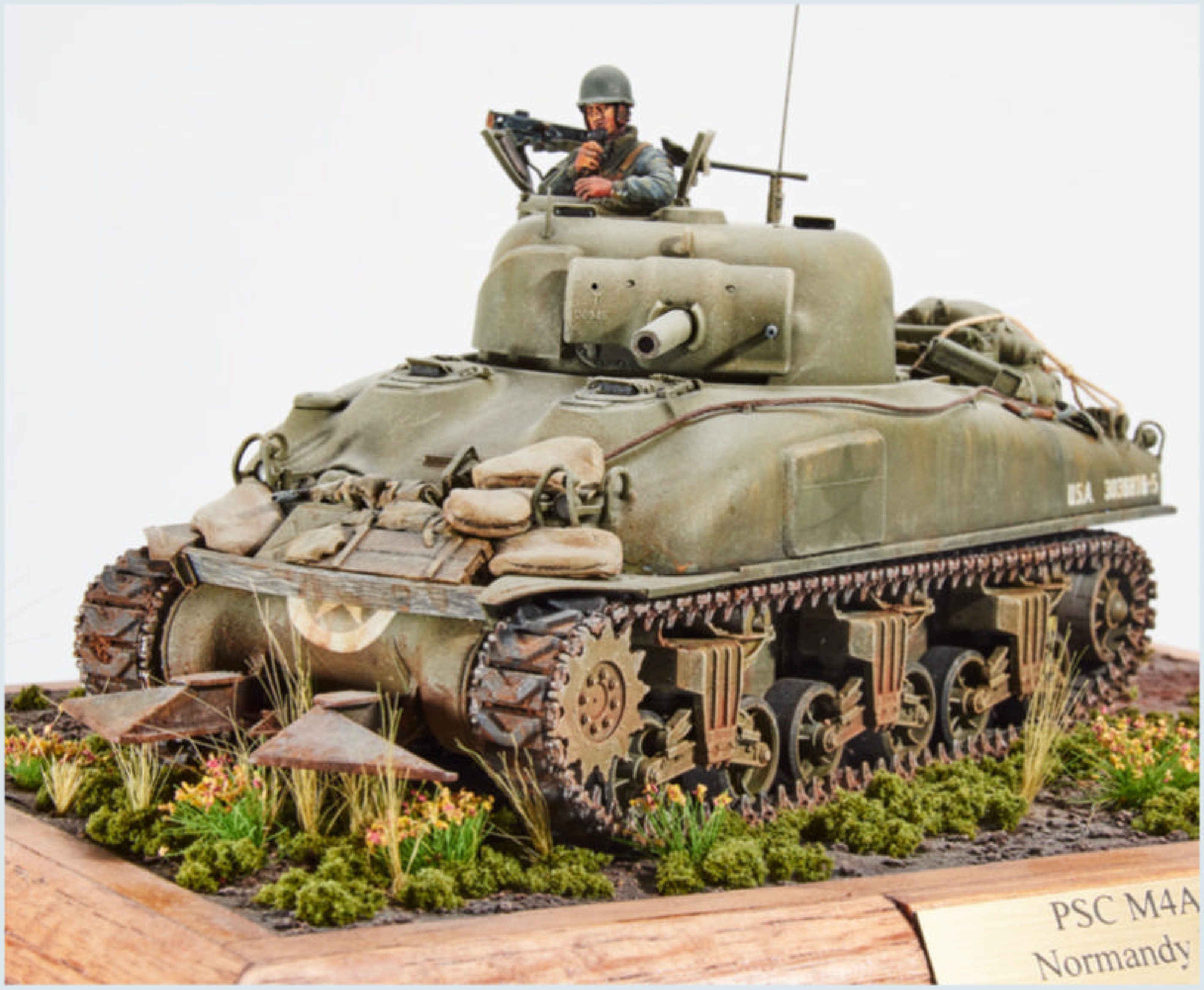
◀ **MATT JACOBSON**
LAWRENCE, KANSAS
Stay out of the water! Matt started this model as a Monogram 1/48 scale AV-8B Harrier, but then quickly changed it. He flipped the kit over, moved the vertical stabilizer to the top, moved the horizontal stabilizers forward, and brought in parts from other kits to make what Matt calls the "Terminator Shark." Two red LEDs light the eyes, and it wears a white LED spotlight in the nose. This model won gold at WonderFest USA 2022.



▲ KIM SHELDON

PENSACOLA, FLORIDA

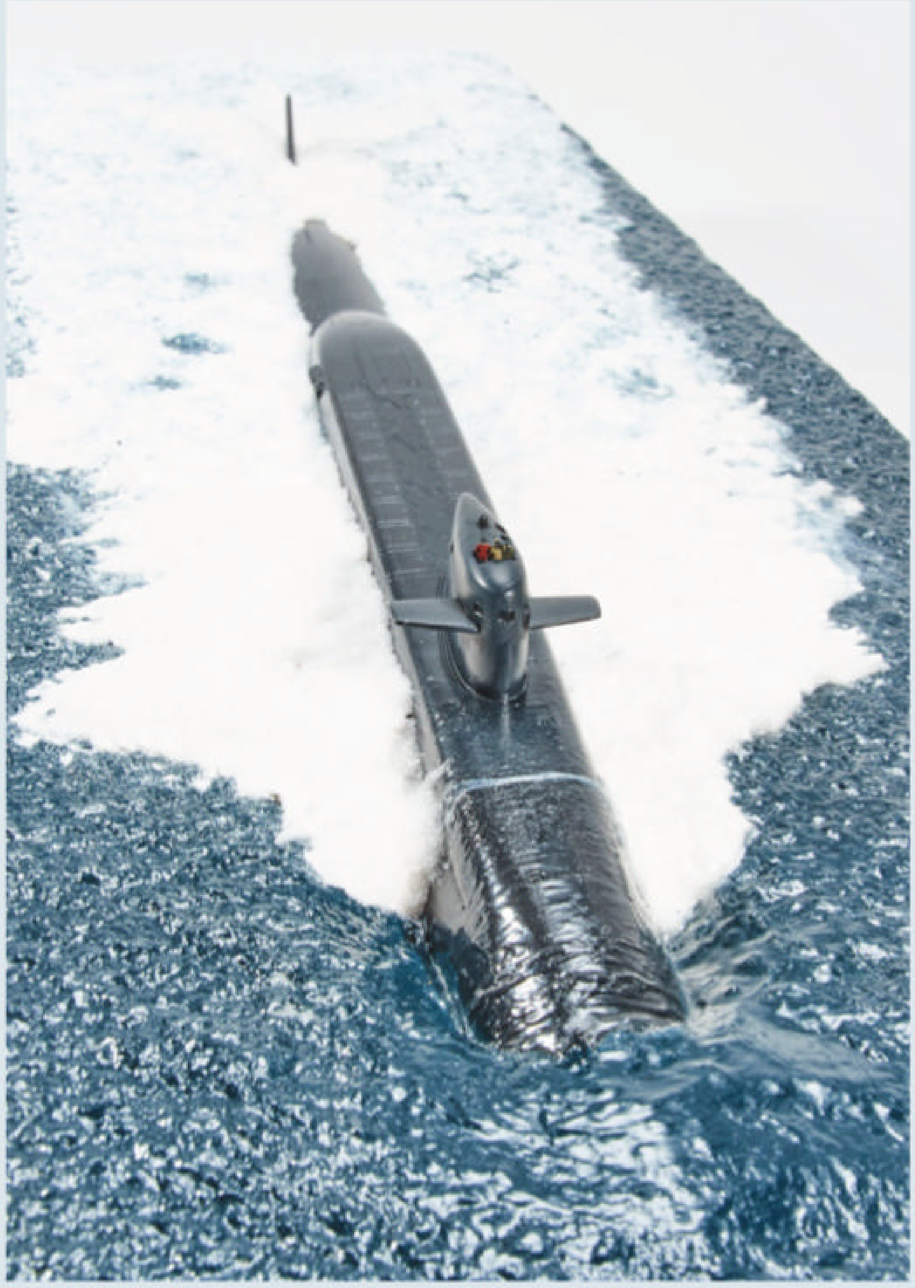
Flying in with a Grumman-Columbia Aircraft OA-12 Duck, Kim built the 1/72 scale Airfix kit, but needed to get dirty and make some modifications to the plastic. He sanded off over-scale rivets, substituted a vacuum-formed canopy for the kit plastic, installed a True Details resin pilot's seat, and ran rigging.

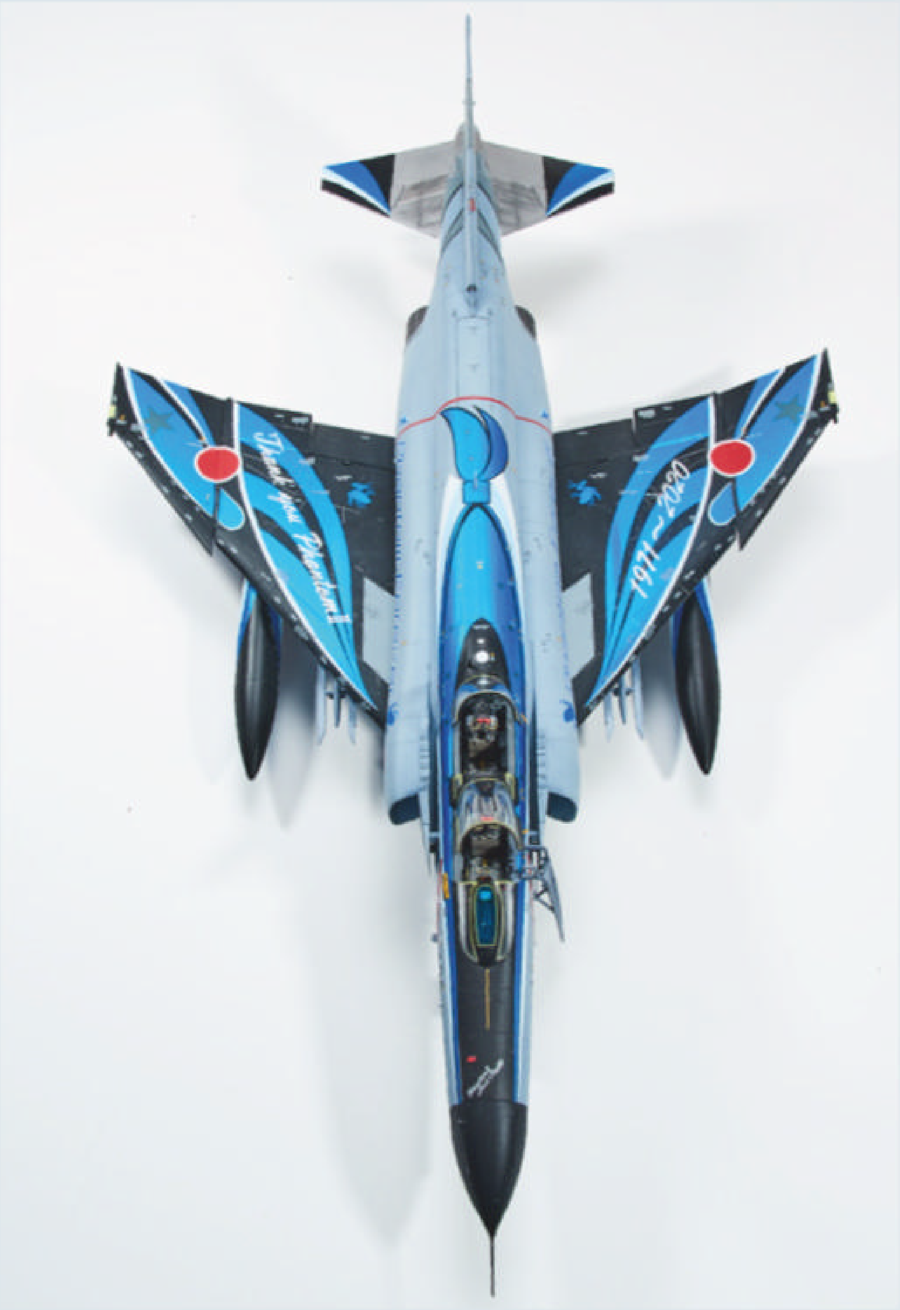


▲ FRED BOGS

WINTERSET, IOWA

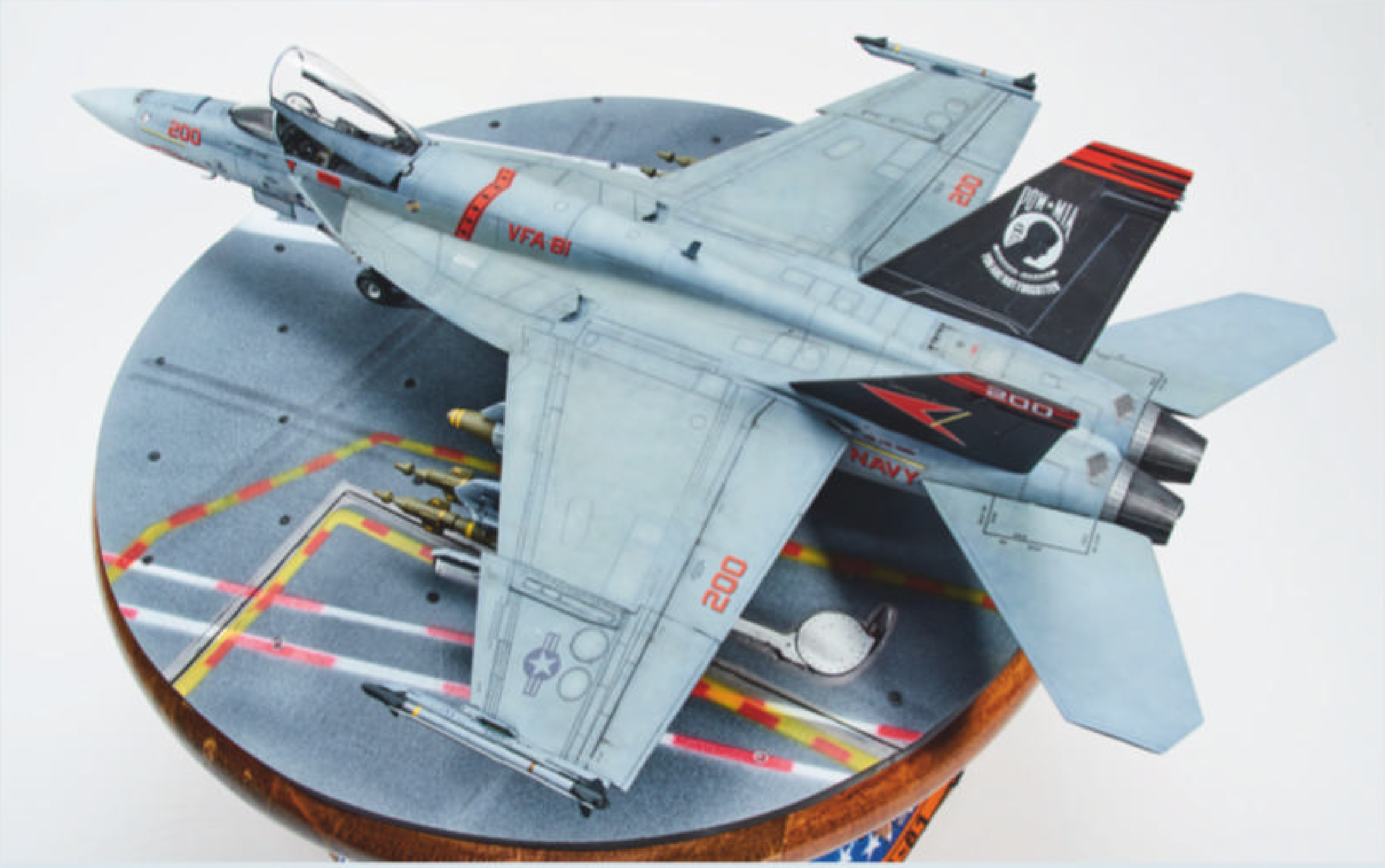
Fred modeled an M4A1 during the Normandy Breakout in August 1944. He used an Asuka 1/35 scale kit as a base, modified the hedgerow cutter, added photo-etched metal tool tie-down straps and fittings, and made sandbags with two-part epoxy putty. A variety of paints and techniques went into finishing Fred's Sherman, including Tamiya lacquers, acrylic paints, and oil washes for highlights.



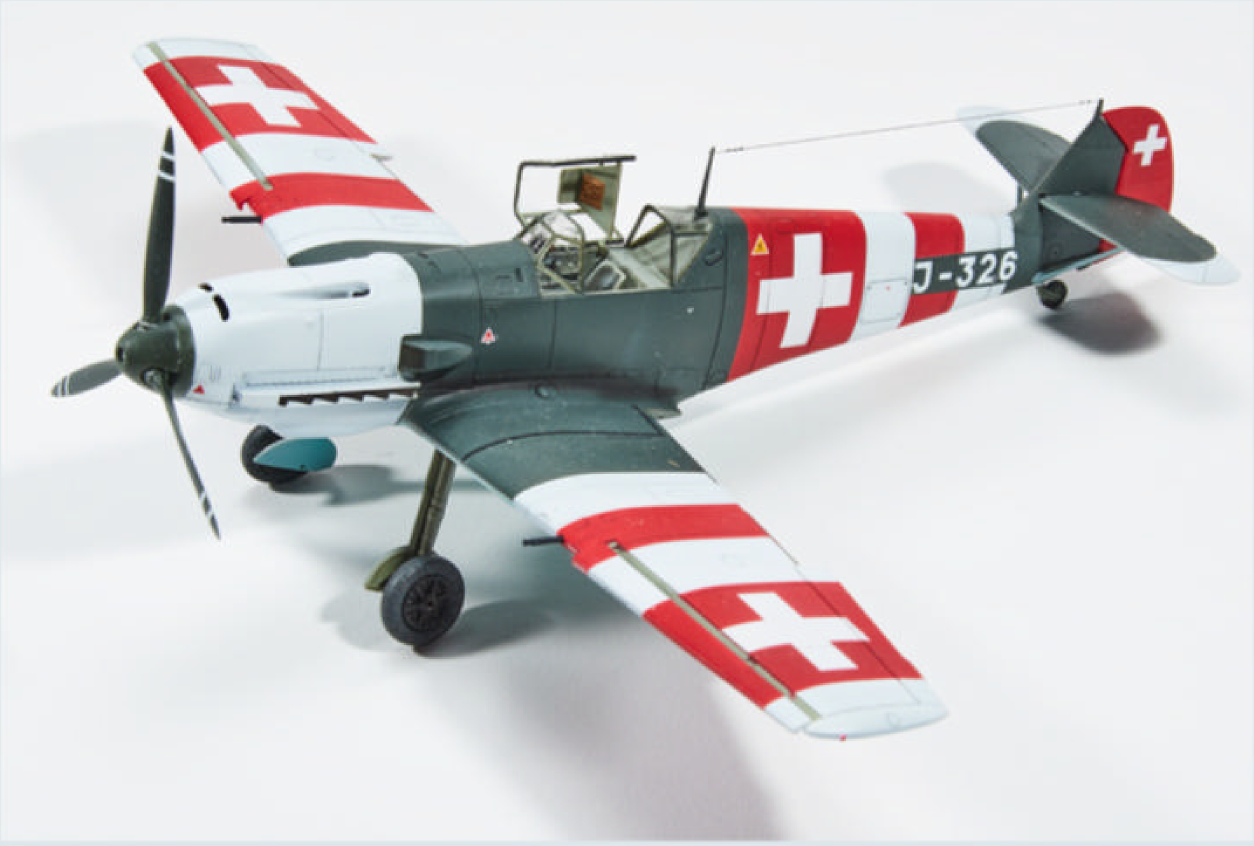


▲ DAVID WAPLES
WESTMINSTER, COLORADO
To model his MikroMir 1/350 scale USS *James Monroe* at sea, David made a base from foam insulation and used the Chris Flodberg water method demonstrated in the April 2016 *FineScale Modeler* magazine.

▲ STEVE SCHAFFER
HASTINGS, MINNESOTA
Turned on to Zoukei-Mura kits by a friend, Steve modeled his 1/48 scale F-4EJ Kai straight out of the box. The scheme replicates a Japanese paint job used for the aircraft's retirement from service.



◀ DOUGLAS LEACH
BELLEVUE, NEBRASKA
For his F/A-18E marked for VFA-81 Sunliners, Doug began with a 1/48 scale Revell kit and added a resin ejection seat and ordnance from Hasegawa weapons sets (the GBU-12s are mounted on resin racks from Reskit). He base-coated the fighter black, painted with Tamiya and MR Paint colors, and added Flory washes and artist oil paints for detail and a bit of weathering.



◀ **CHAD RICHMOND**

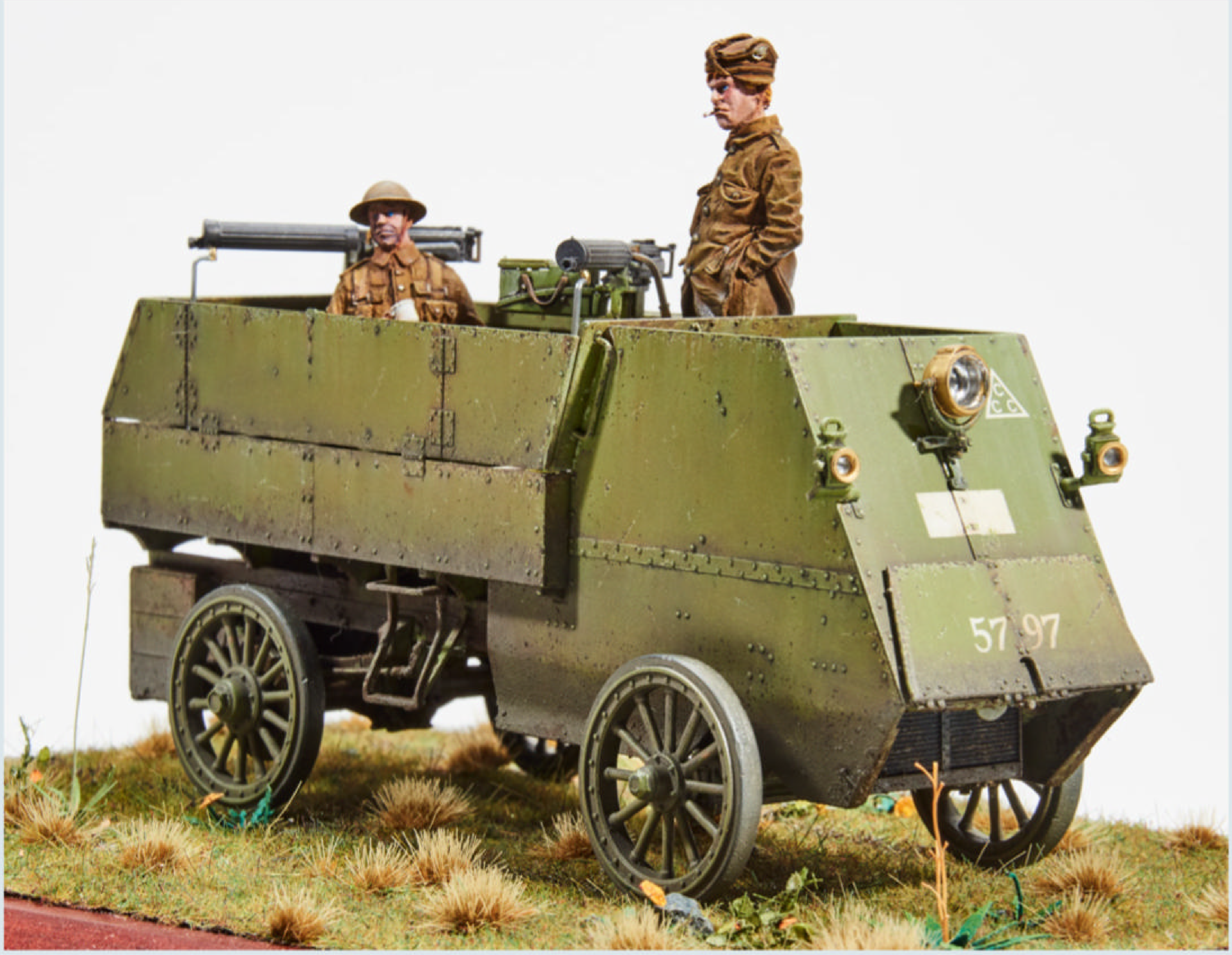
PINSON, ARIZONA

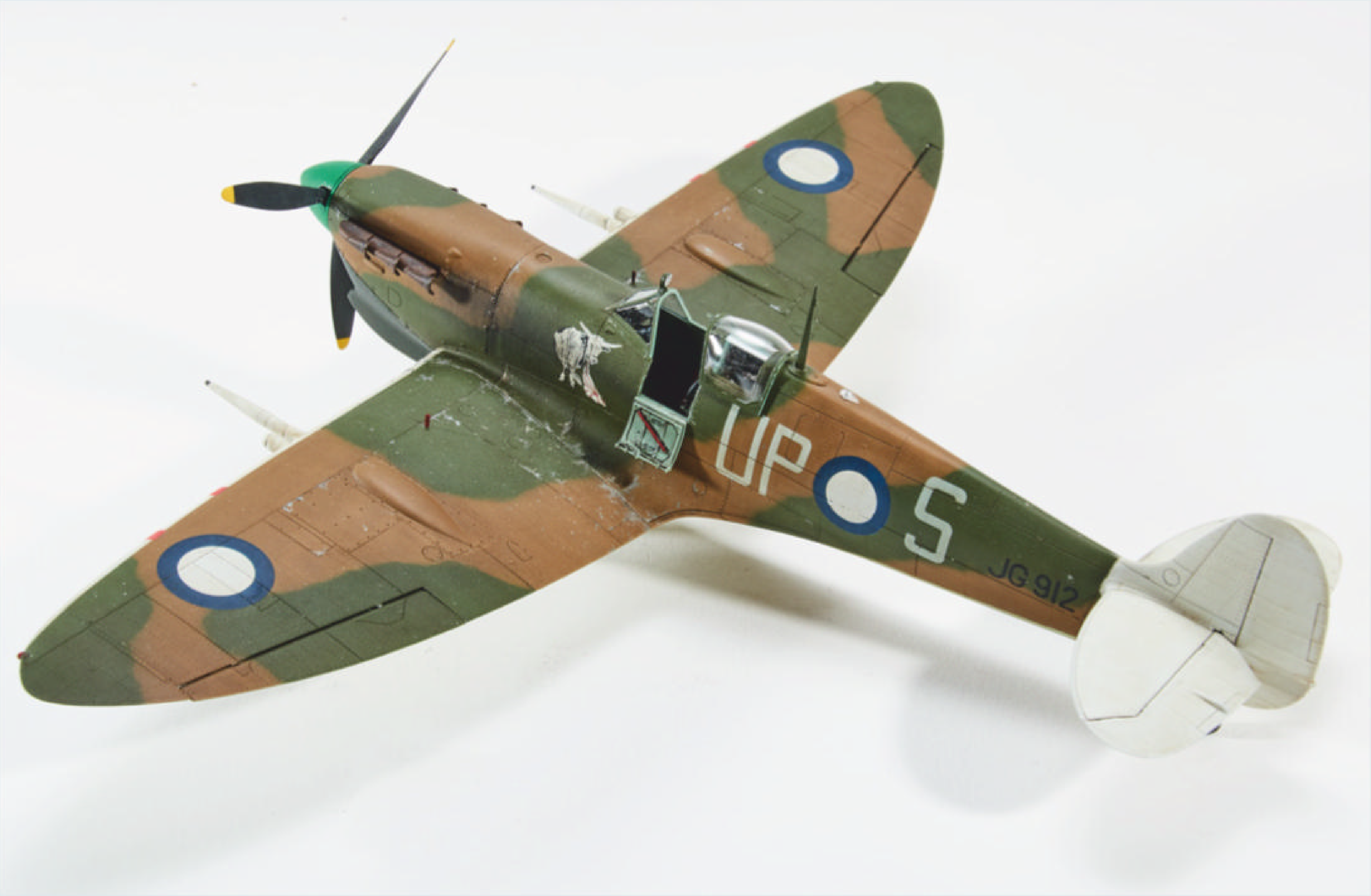
Built box stock, Chad painted his Tamiya 1/48 scale Bf 109E-3 with MR Paint colors through an Evolution airbrush. He masked for the Swiss markings and added very light Flory washes for weathering.

▼ **IAN KEIZER**

NARRE WARREN, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

Building a Copper State Models 1/35 scale Autocar Canadian armored machine gun carrier, Ian drilled out the gun barrels, opened the side door, and added tread to the tires. He mixed Mr. Hobby paints for custom colors. "The model depicts a war-weary car and crew that just want to go home," Ian says.





▲ CALEB LEVONAS

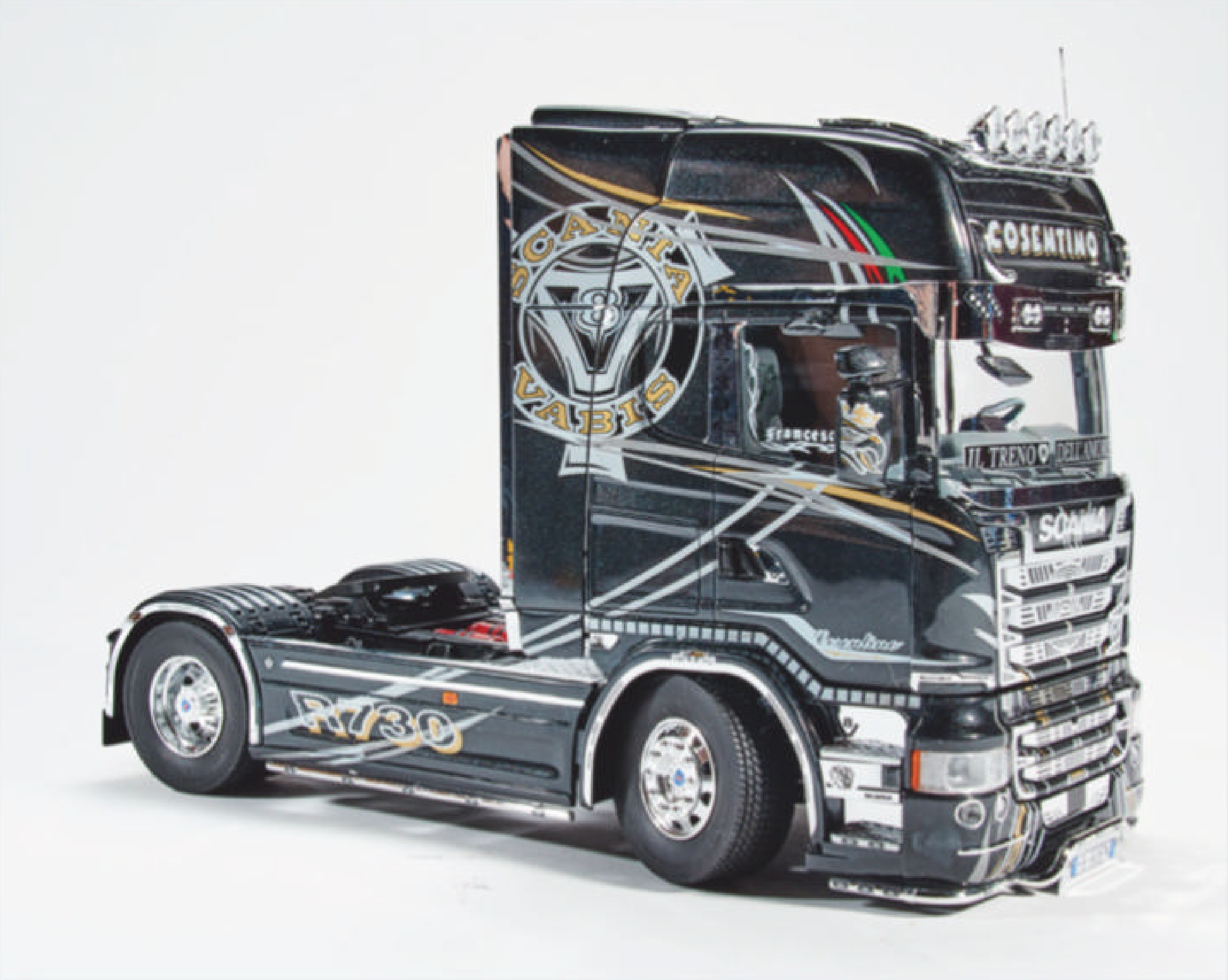
LONGMONT, COLORADO

Caleb built his Eduard 1/48 scale Spitfire Mk.Vc/Trop out of the box and marked for service with the Royal Australian Air Force. He painted a natural-metal base, airbrushed the camo freehand, and then chipped to reveal the metal underneath. Caleb weathered with artist oils, enamel washes, and AK Interactive colored pencils.

► JARROD BOOTH

DESOTO, KANSAS

Holy bling, Batman! Jarrod built his Italeri 1/24 scale Scania from the box — except for a single antenna. He draped it in Testors Wet-Look enamels, but painted the cab panels separately, polished them, placed decals, and then put it all together. Spectacular truck!



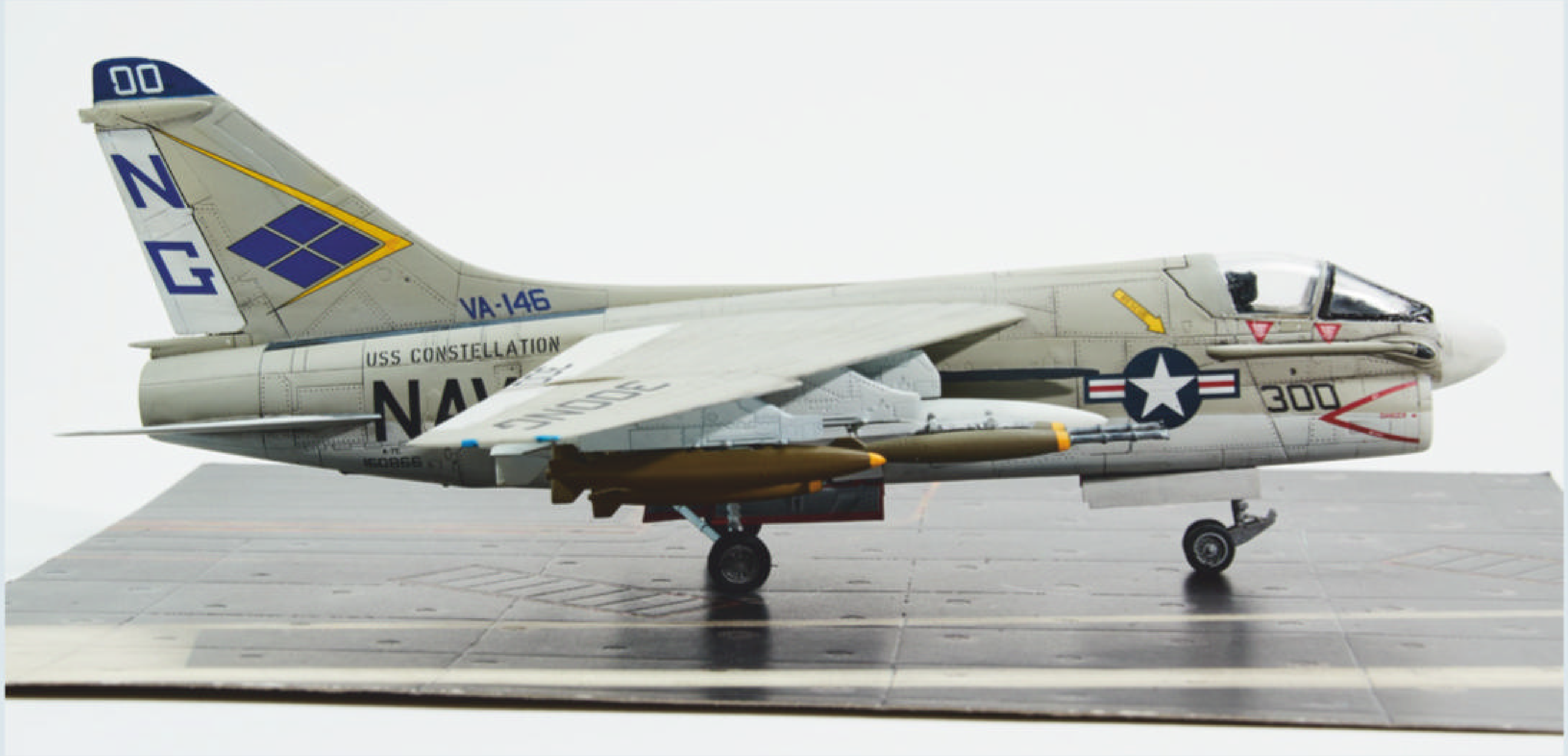
Mad City Modelers 26th Annual Show and IPMS Region 5 Convention

On Saturday, March 5, 2022, modelers from around the upper Midwest gathered at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison, Wisconsin, for the Mad City Modelers annual contest. The show doubled as the IPMS Region 5 Convention. Not surprisingly, with 541 models presented, attendees had no shortage of fantastic scale models to view. This show had everything from airplanes to cars, ships to tanks, science fiction, and fantasy. Enjoy!

HAROLD PARSONS

INVER GROVE HEIGHTS, MINNESOTA

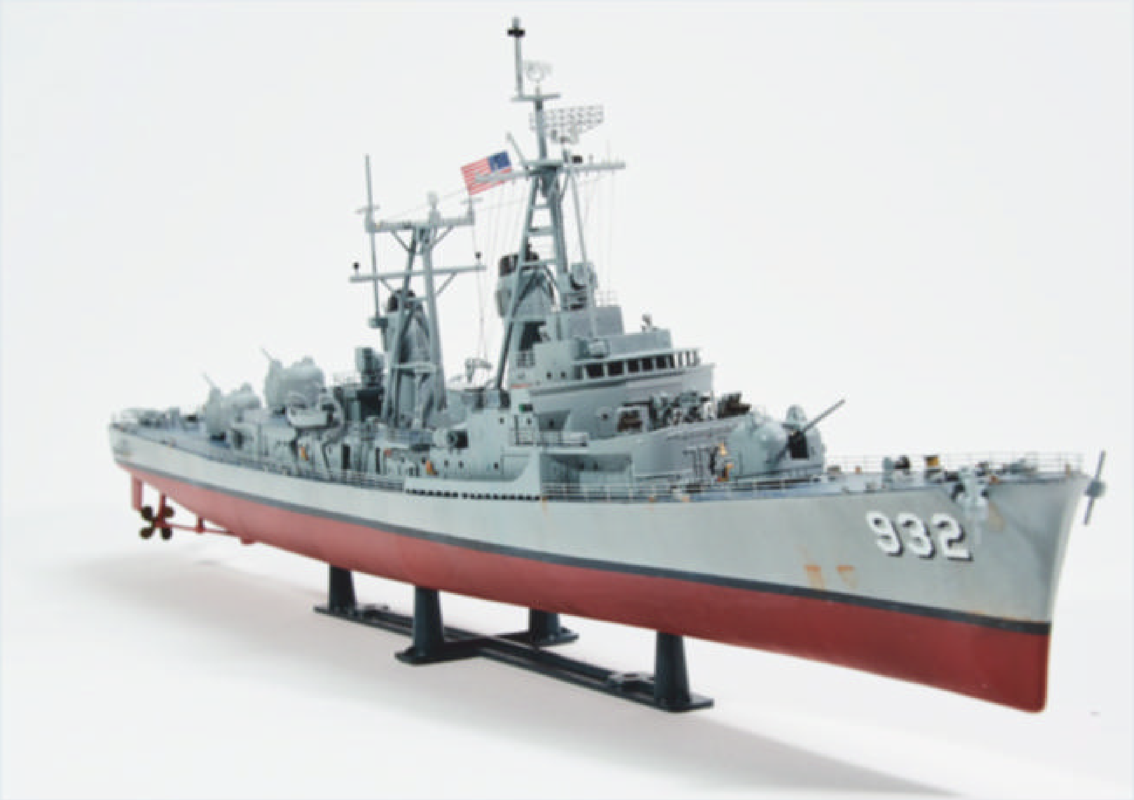
Harold describes the Copper State Models 1/48 scale Caudron G.4 as an excellent kit; his only additions were Uschi van der Rosten line for rigging and beading wire pushrods for the engines. He painted the model with acrylics and enamels.



▲ **JEFF BOBELA**

GLADSTONE, MISSOURI

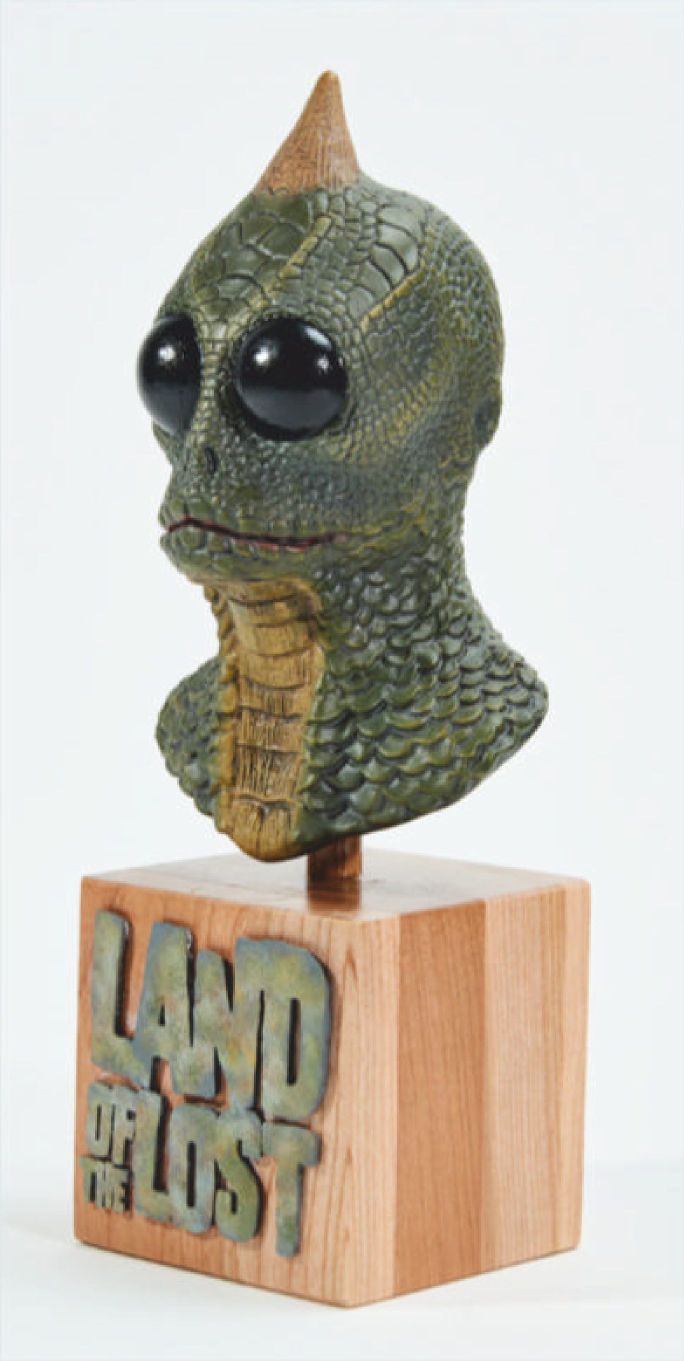
To model a loaded U.S. Navy jet, Jeff built a HobbyBoss 1/72 scale A-7 Corsair out of the box, added aftermarket decals, and painted it with Ammo by Mig Jimenez acrylics. Washes popped the rivets and panels lines, pastels mixed with water added streaks.



▲ **JOHN W. TOKAREWICH**

BARTLETT, ILLINOIS

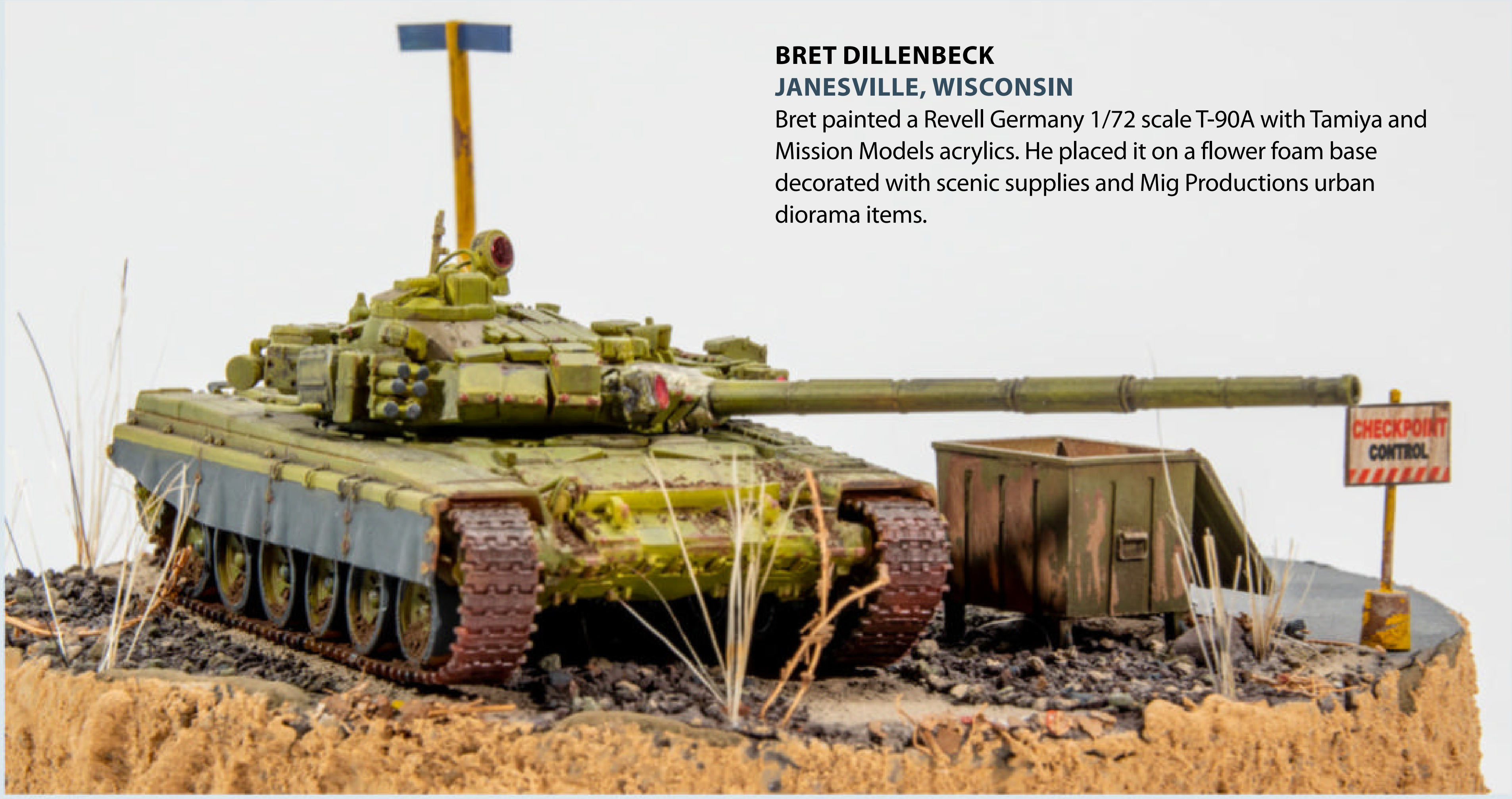
John performed major surgery to improve Revell's 1/320 scale USS *John Paul Jones* from 1958! He removed and corrected some molded-on parts to make room for aftermarket details. John installed Gold Medal Models photo-etched metal, Monkey Models gun mounts, directors, hedgehog launchers, and a number of other aftermarket and scratchbuilt additions. He painted with Testors Model Master and LifeColor acrylics.



◀ **MATT STOWELL**

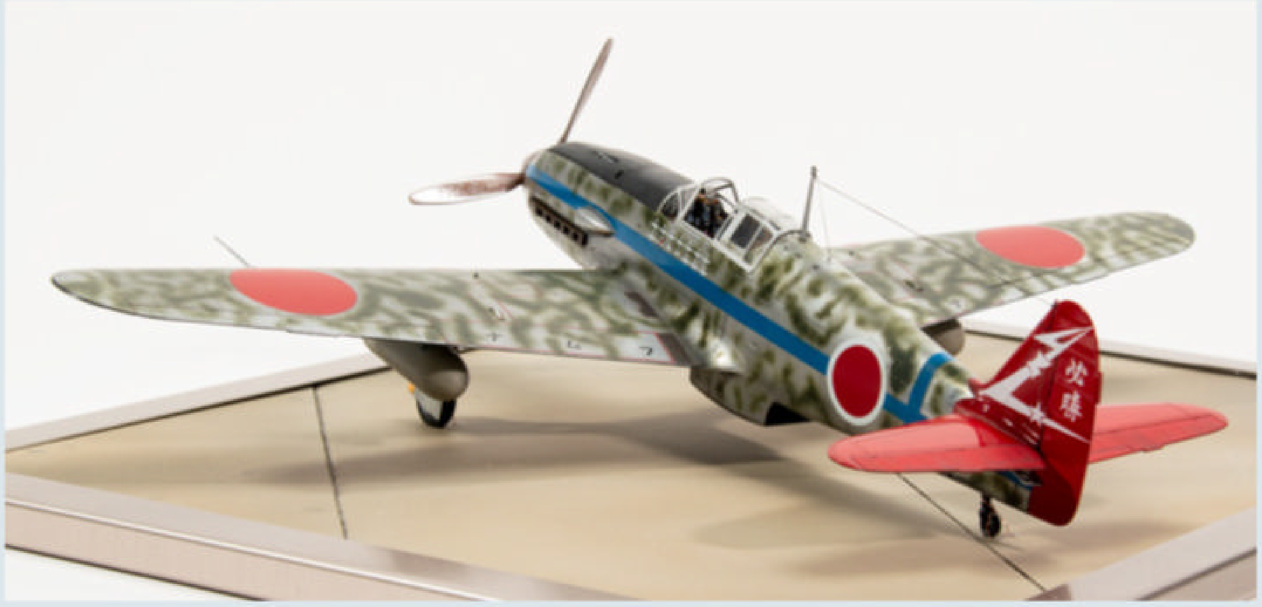
HUNTLEY, ILLINOIS

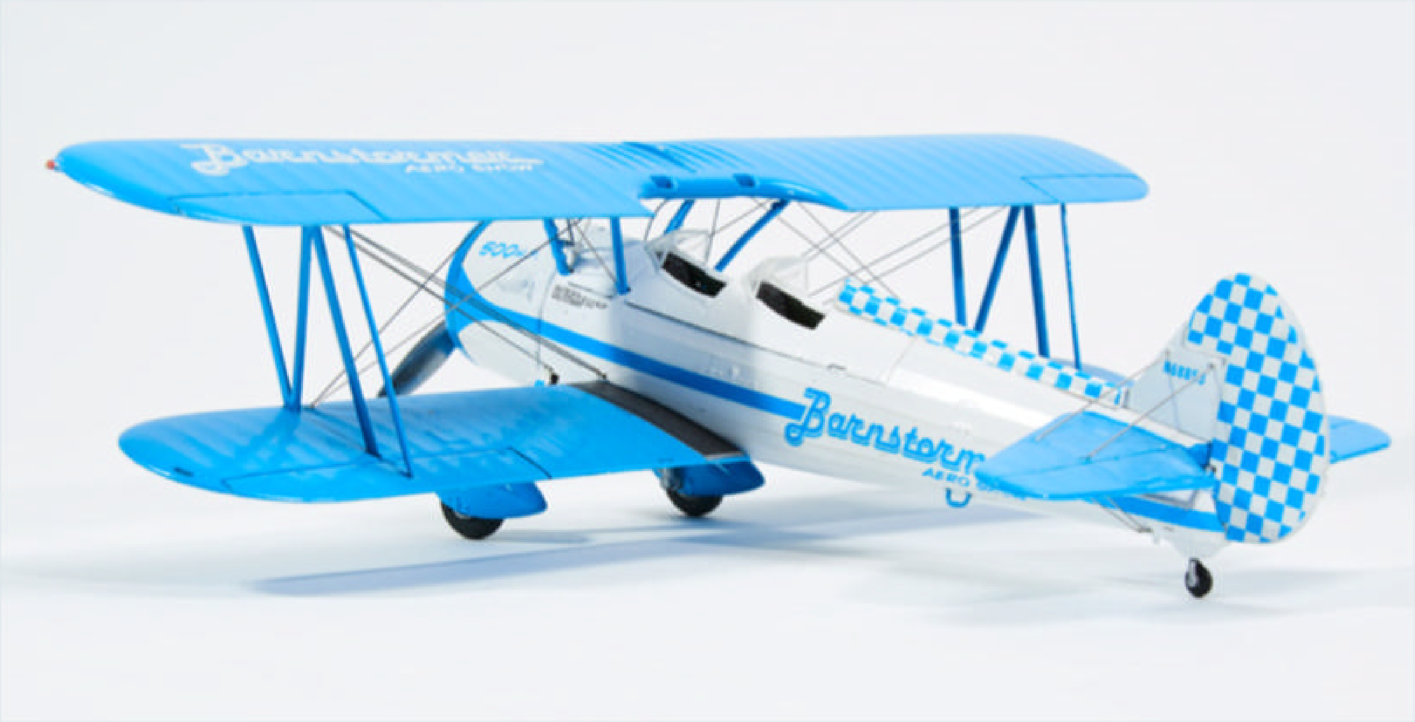
Matt isn't sure who made this bust of a Sleestack from the 1970s TV show Land of the Lost. He painted it with Vallejo acrylics over Badger Stynylrez primer; the initial layers were airbrushed and the details were dry-brushed.



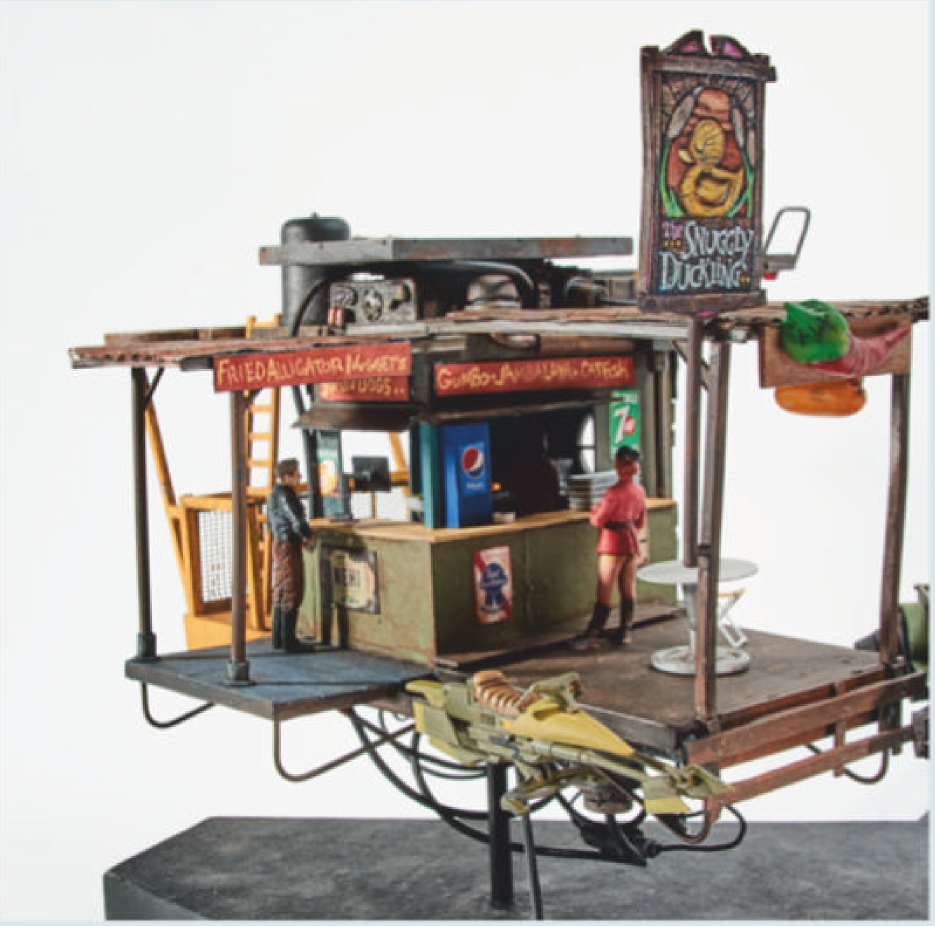
BRET DILLENBECK
JANESVILLE, WISCONSIN
Bret painted a Revell Germany 1/72 scale T-90A with Tamiya and Mission Models acrylics. He placed it on a flower foam base decorated with scenic supplies and Mig Productions urban diorama items.

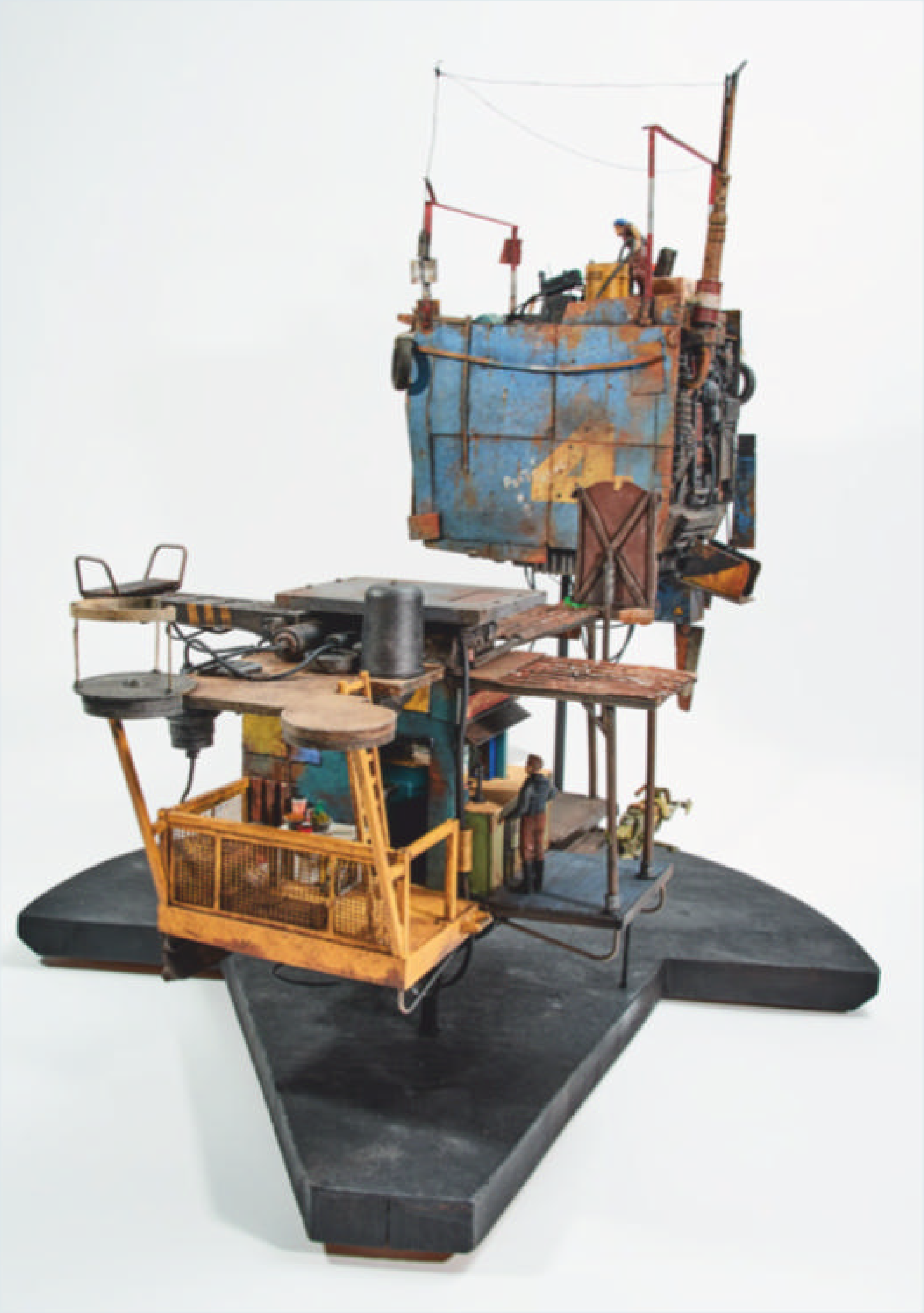
▶ KEVIN RICKBEIL
RICE, MINNESOTA
Working with a Tamiya 1/48 scale Ki-61 Hein, Kevin applied Alclad II lacquers for the metal finish before airbrushing the green camouflage freehand with Tamiya acrylics. The Japanese fighter sits in a printed cardboard tarmac.



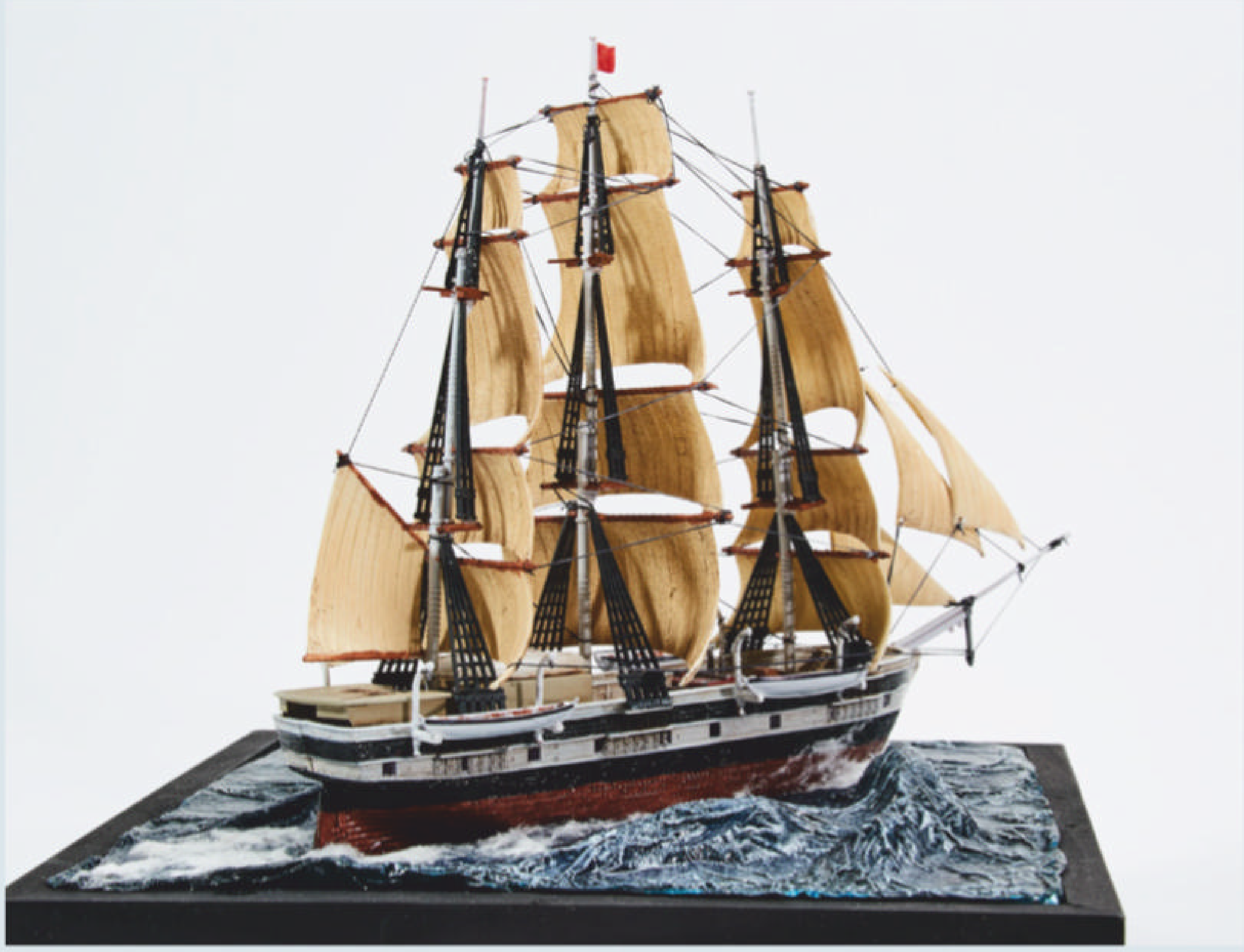


◀ BOB MADERICH II
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA
Having some fun, Bob took Revell's 1/48 scale Stearman for a spin to model a barnstorming aerobatic plane. He painted it with Humbrol enamels, and his only addition to an otherwise out-of-the-box build was rigging.

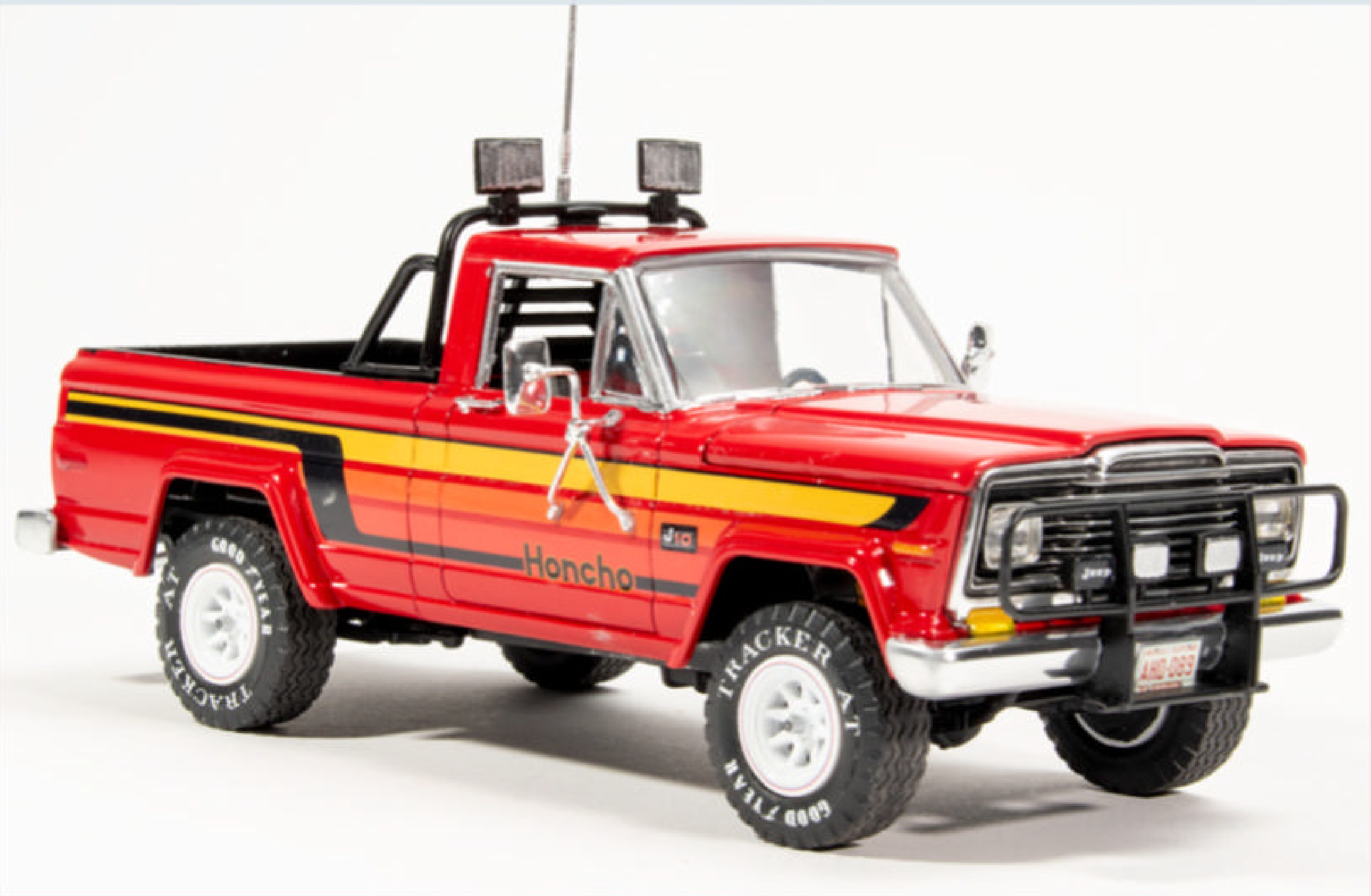




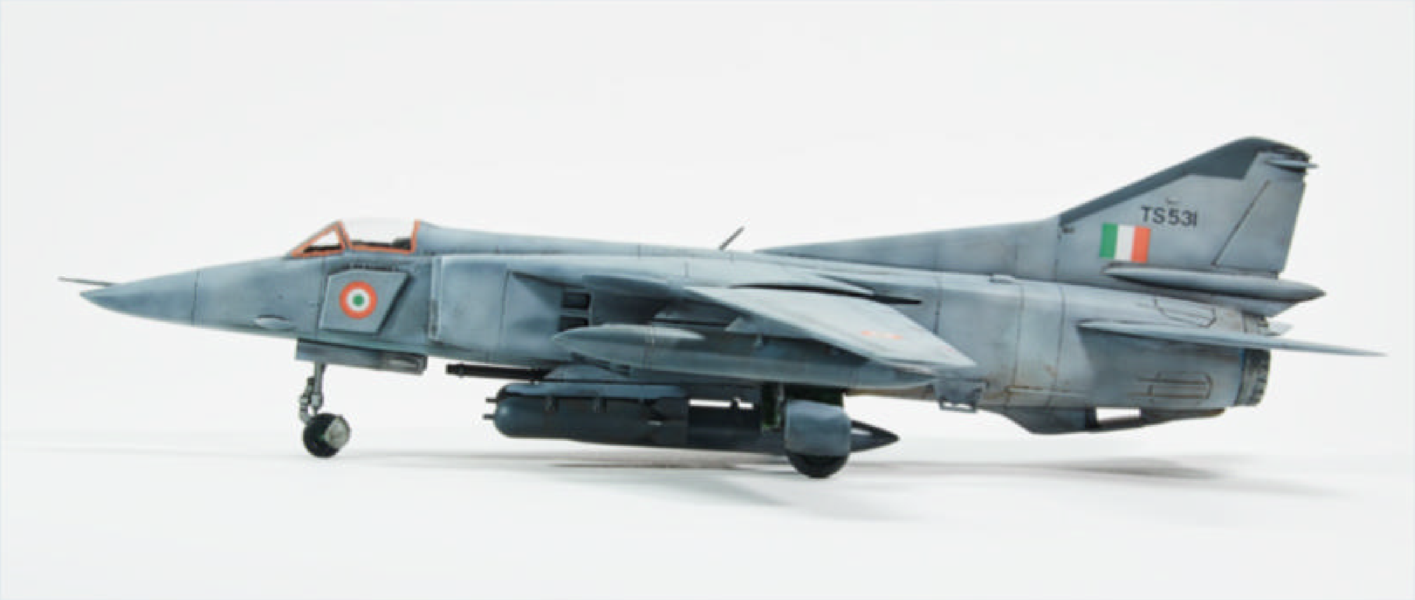
▲▶ MICHAEL GOSDA
MADISON, WISCONSIN
What is it? Diesel punk hover buildings, according to Michael, who scratchbuilt the small eatery, the customer's hover car, and the neighboring mechanical building. He hand-painted the structures with acrylics.



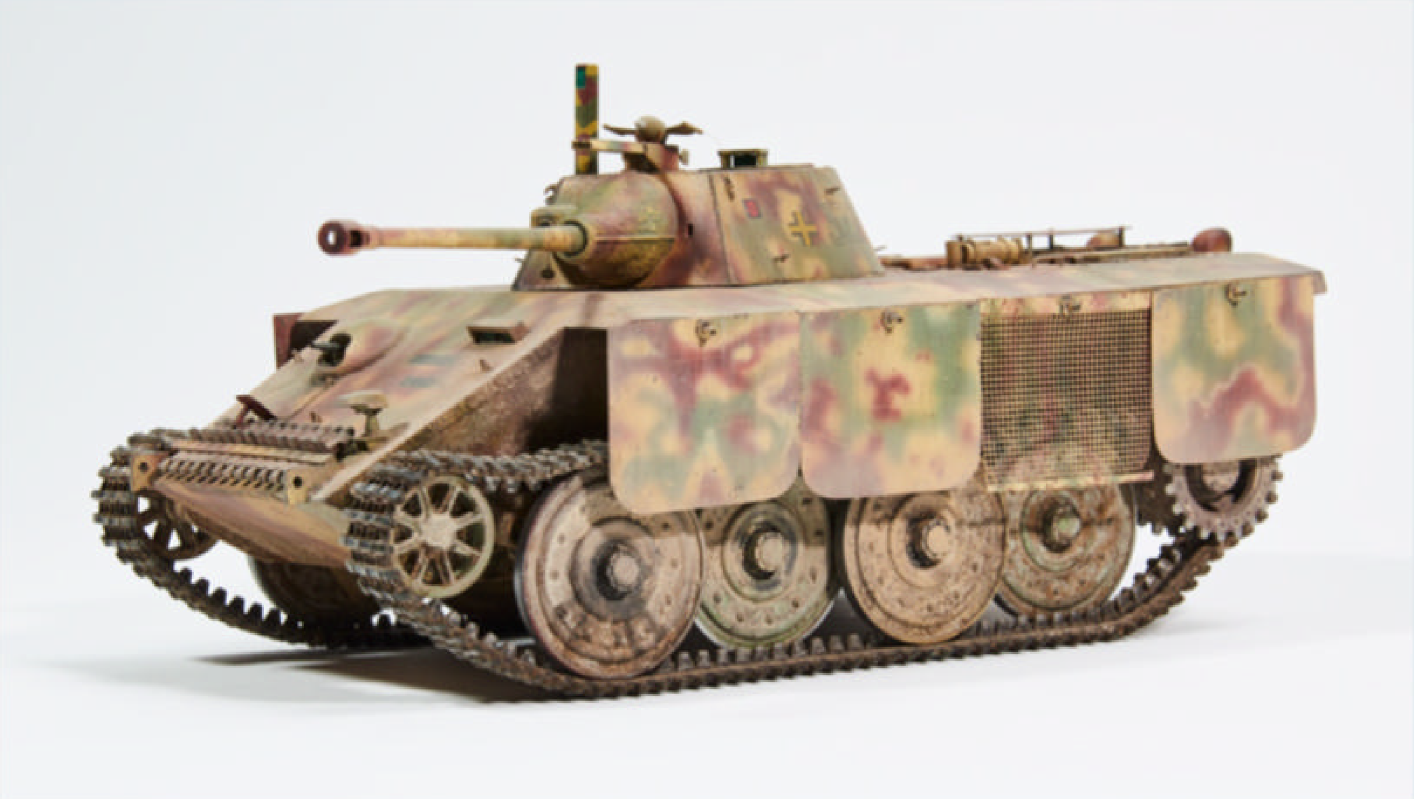
◀ TOM SCHRY
OSHKOSH, WISCONSIN
After Tom finished an Academy 1/200 scale New Bedford whaler as the *Charles W. Morgan* (now a museum ship at Mystic Seaport, Connecticut) with craft acrylics, he launched it on a sea of aluminum foil and gauze.



▶ **THOMAS FOERSTER**
EAGLE RIVER, WISCONSIN
Inspired by vehicles he coveted in the 1980s, Thomas built Revell's 1/25 scale Jeep J10 Honcho out of the box and painted it with Mr. Color Red lacquer topped with House of Kolor Kosmic Clear.

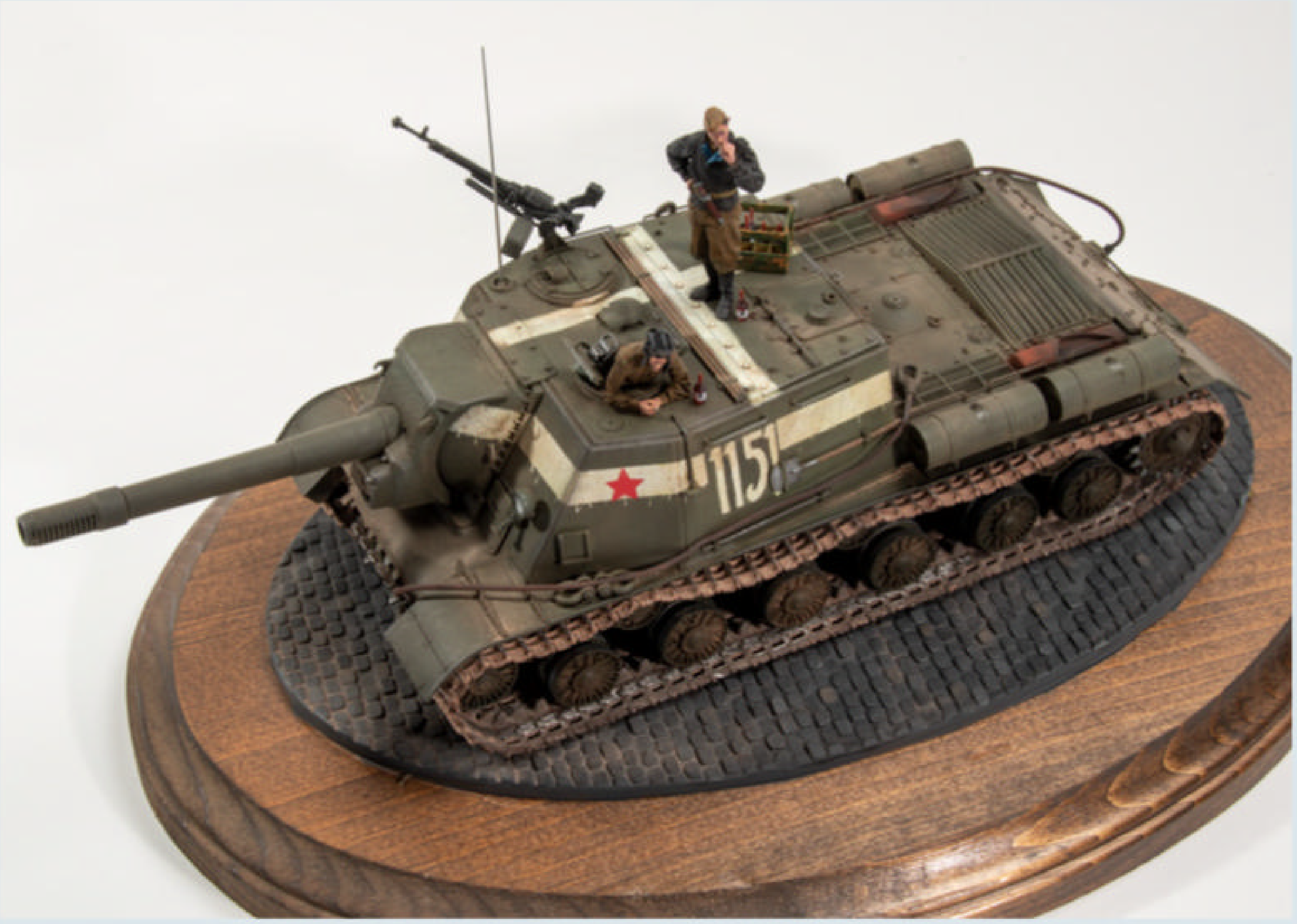


◀ **MAREK ROGAL**
MADISON, WISCONSIN
To build an Indian MiG-27M that served in Kashmir in 1997 and 1998, Marek added armor plates alongside the cockpit. He painted the ground attacker with Mr. Color lacquers over Badger Stynylrez black primer. Washes and color modulation weathered the finish.

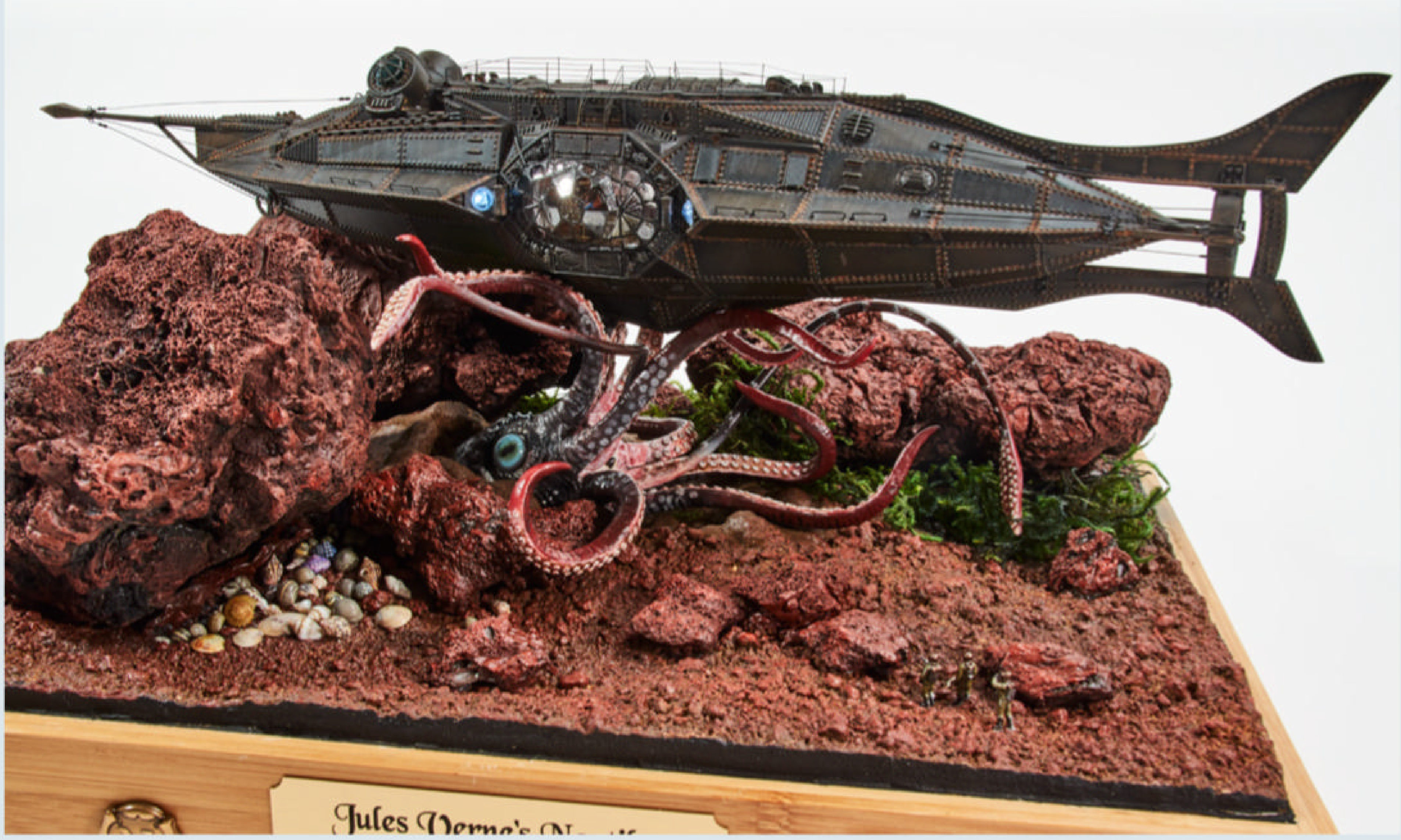


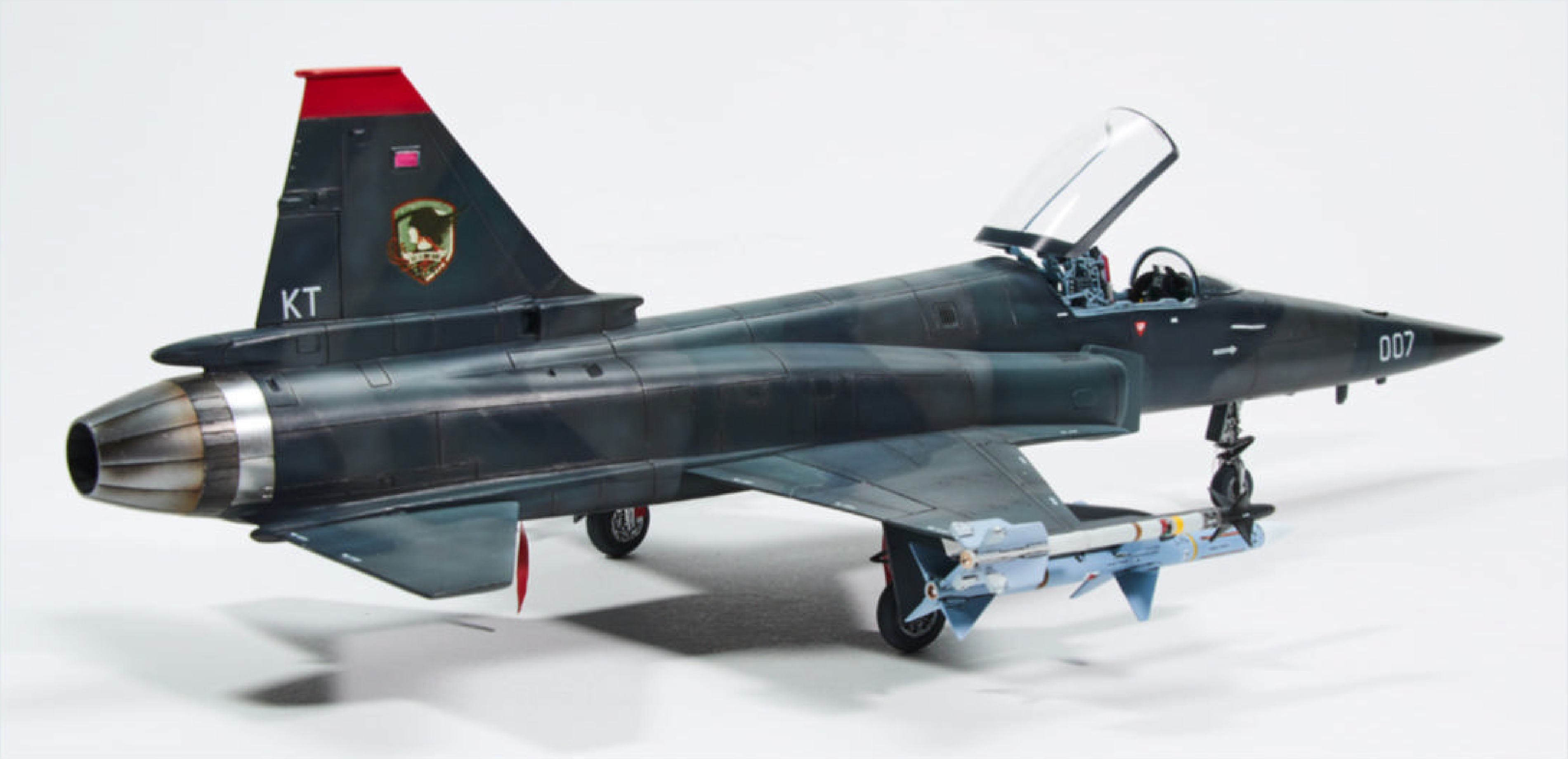
▶ **STEVE BACON**
NEW WHITELAND, INDIANA
Re-imagining a "paper panzer," Steve extended the hull of a Trumpeter 1/35 scale E-10 Jagdpanzer. He made room for the turret from a Puma armored car and scratchbuilt a launcher and X-7 guided missile. Steve painted the what-if German vehicle with Tamiya acrylics and weathered it with artist oils and AK Interactive pigments.

▶ BRIAN N. STANLEY
GLENWOOD, IOWA
To build a Soviet vehicle in Berlin in 1945, Brian detailed a Tamiya 1/35 scale ISU-152 with an RB metal barrel, Friulmodel tracks, Eureka tow cables, and crew figures from Stalingrad Miniatures. He painted the big self-propelled gun with Tamiya acrylics, post-shaded the vehicle for visual interest, and weathered with washes and pigments.



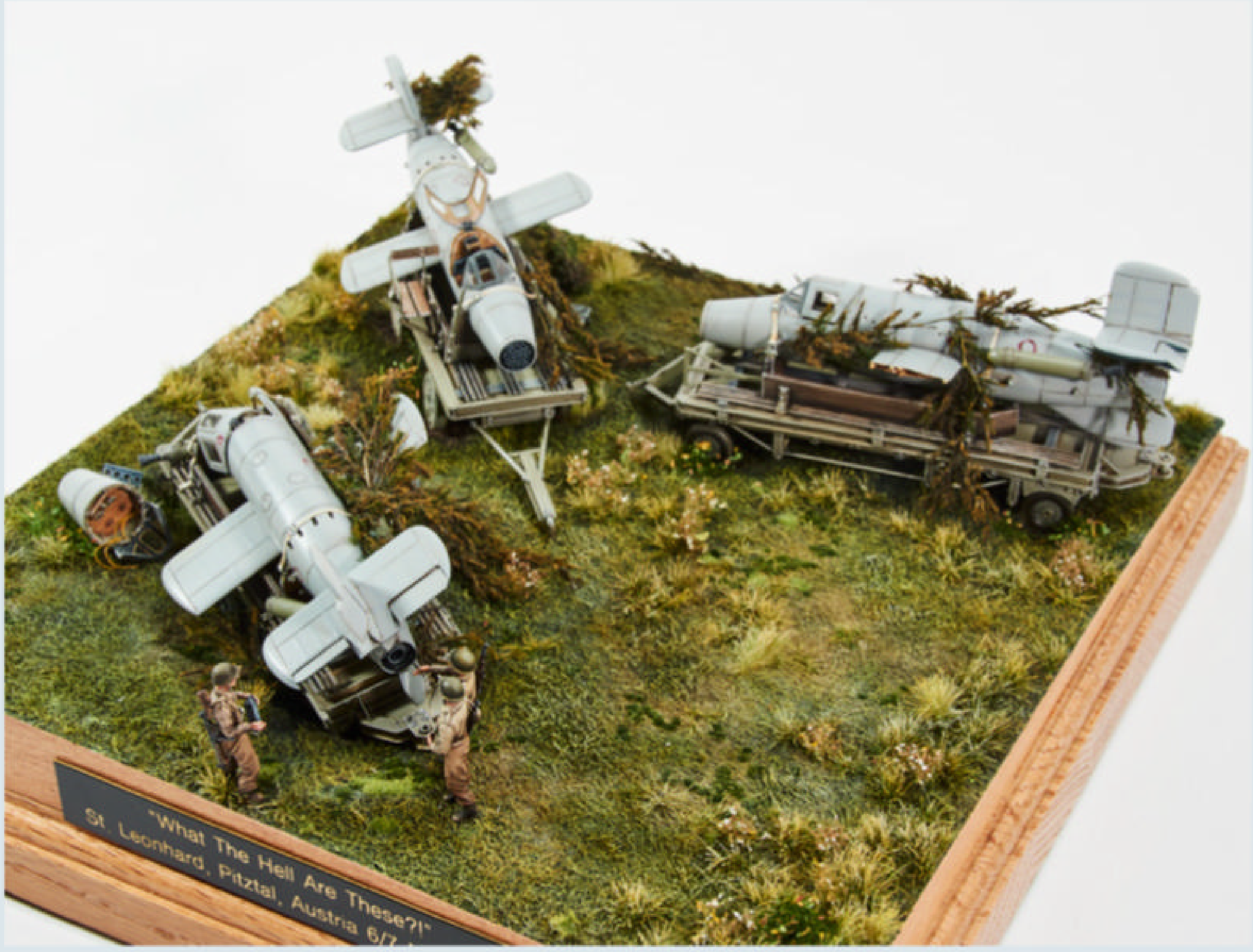
BILL NICHOLS
SUN PRAIRIE, WISCONSIN
After dressing up Pegasus' 1/144 scale Nautilus with LED lighting and a detailed interior, Bill placed it (and the Kraken it came with) on a base populated with aquarium supplies. To paint the scene, he used acrylics; the corroded finish on the sub was achieved with Modern Masters Metal Effects oxidizing iron paint and pigments.

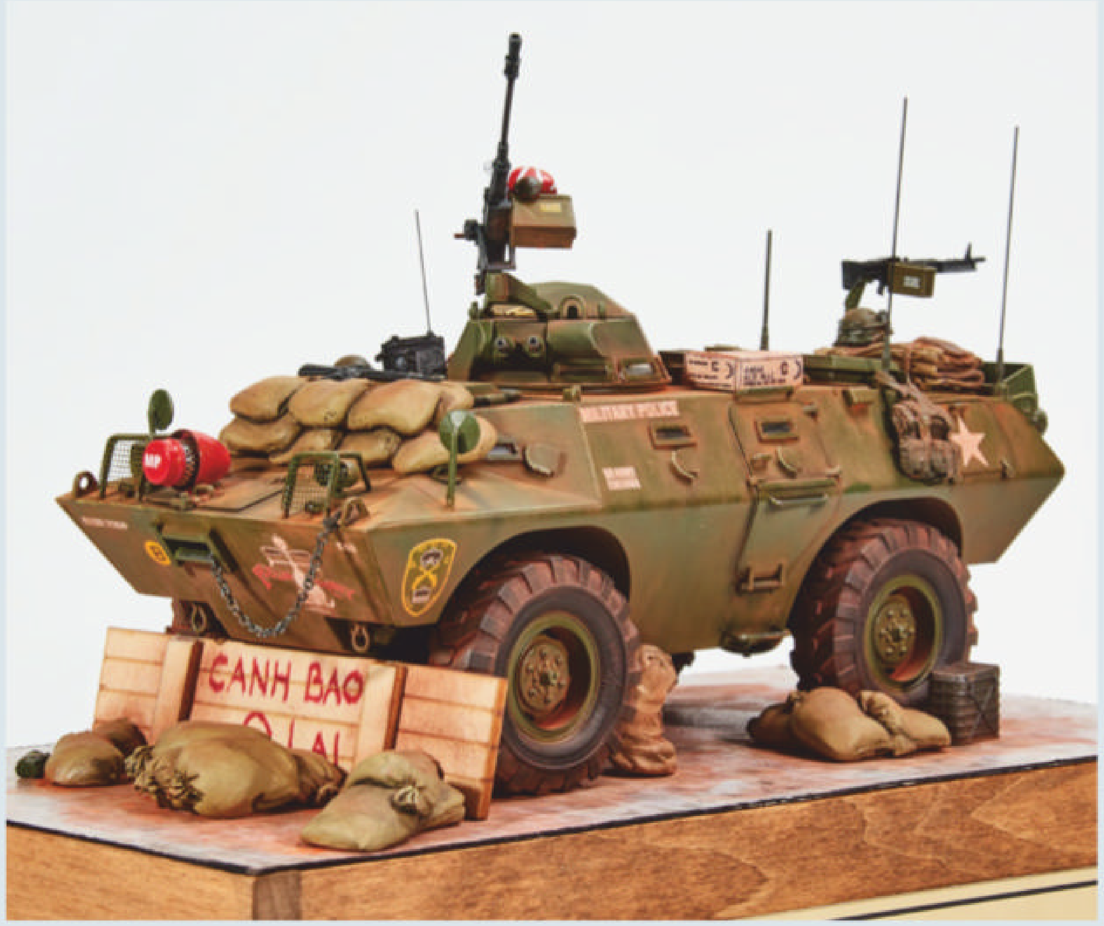




▲ **ANZO LEE**
MADISON, WISCONSIN
Anzo armed a Monogram F-20 with Hasegawa weapons and painted it with Tamiya and Mr. Hobby acrylics. Poster putty masked the camouflage pattern to match one seen in the video game Ace Combat 5. He weathered with artist-oil washes.

▶ **STEVE HUSTAD**
EDEN PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA
The title of Steve's 1/72 diorama aptly describes the reaction of U.S. soldiers when they discovered three Natter rocket fighters abandoned in a field in Austria at the end of World War II. The Natters come from Brengun and the figures are from Preiser; the rest of the scene was scratchbuilt. Humbrol enamels, Vallejo acrylics, artist-oil washes, and pigments finished the scene.


"What The Hell Are These?!"
St. Leonhard, Pitztal, Austria 6/7



◀ **RICK RASMUSSEN**

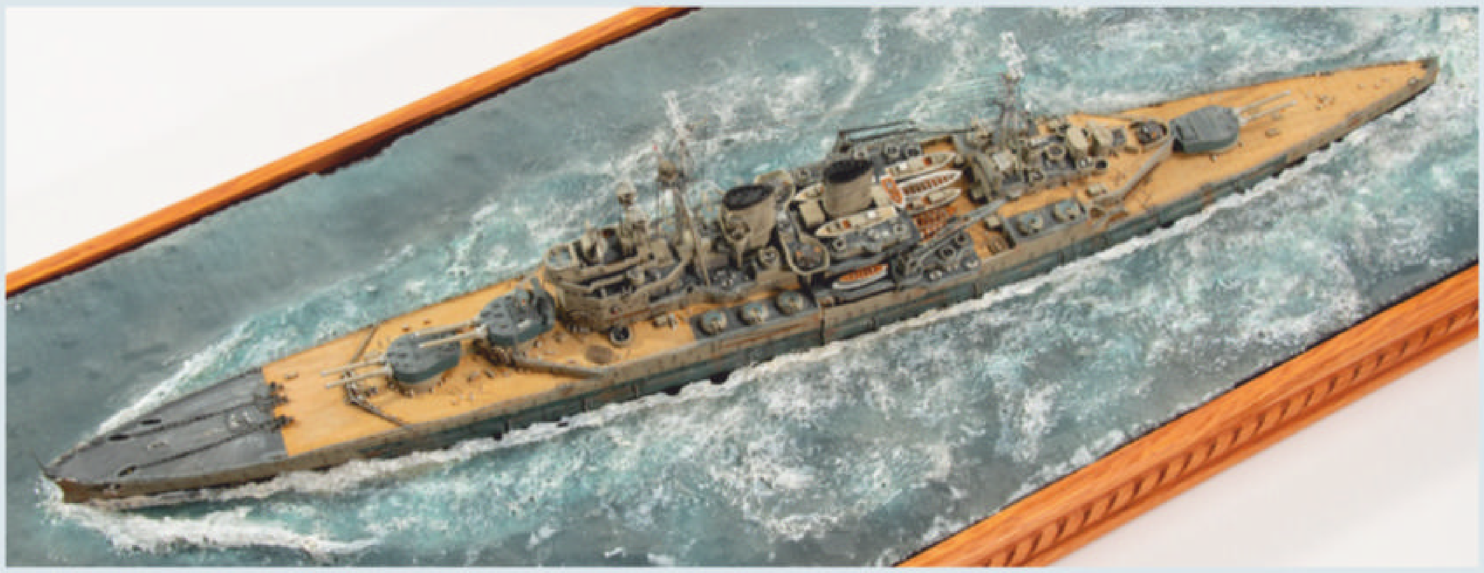
DECORAH, IOWA

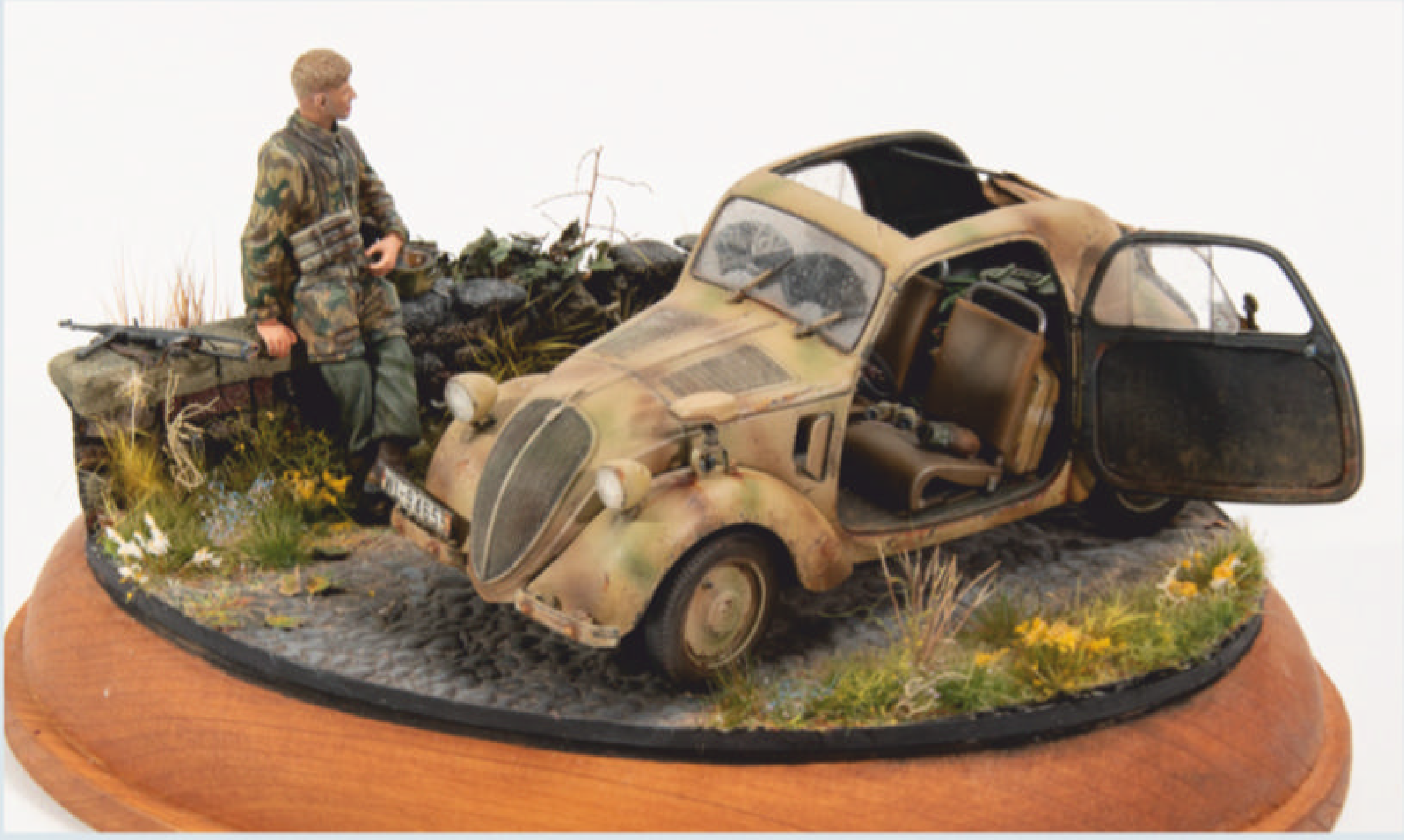
Looking to pose a HobbyBoss 1/35 scale V-100 Commando at a U.S. Military Police checkpoint in Vietnam, Rick fitted machine guns on the roof. He replaced the kit parts with DEF.Model wheels, piled on Tamiya and Legend stowage, and scratchbuilt the siren at the front. Rick painted the armored car with Testors Model Master enamels, first airbrushing white over the upper section and black on the lower reaches to pre-shade the camouflage.

▶ **DAVE MEZERA**

HOBART, INDIANA

Dave used a White Ensign resin hull to improve Trumpeter's 1/700 scale HMS Renown. He painted the battlecruiser with Vallejo acrylics, applied pastel weathering, and then posed the ship underway on a sculpted styrene foam seascape.





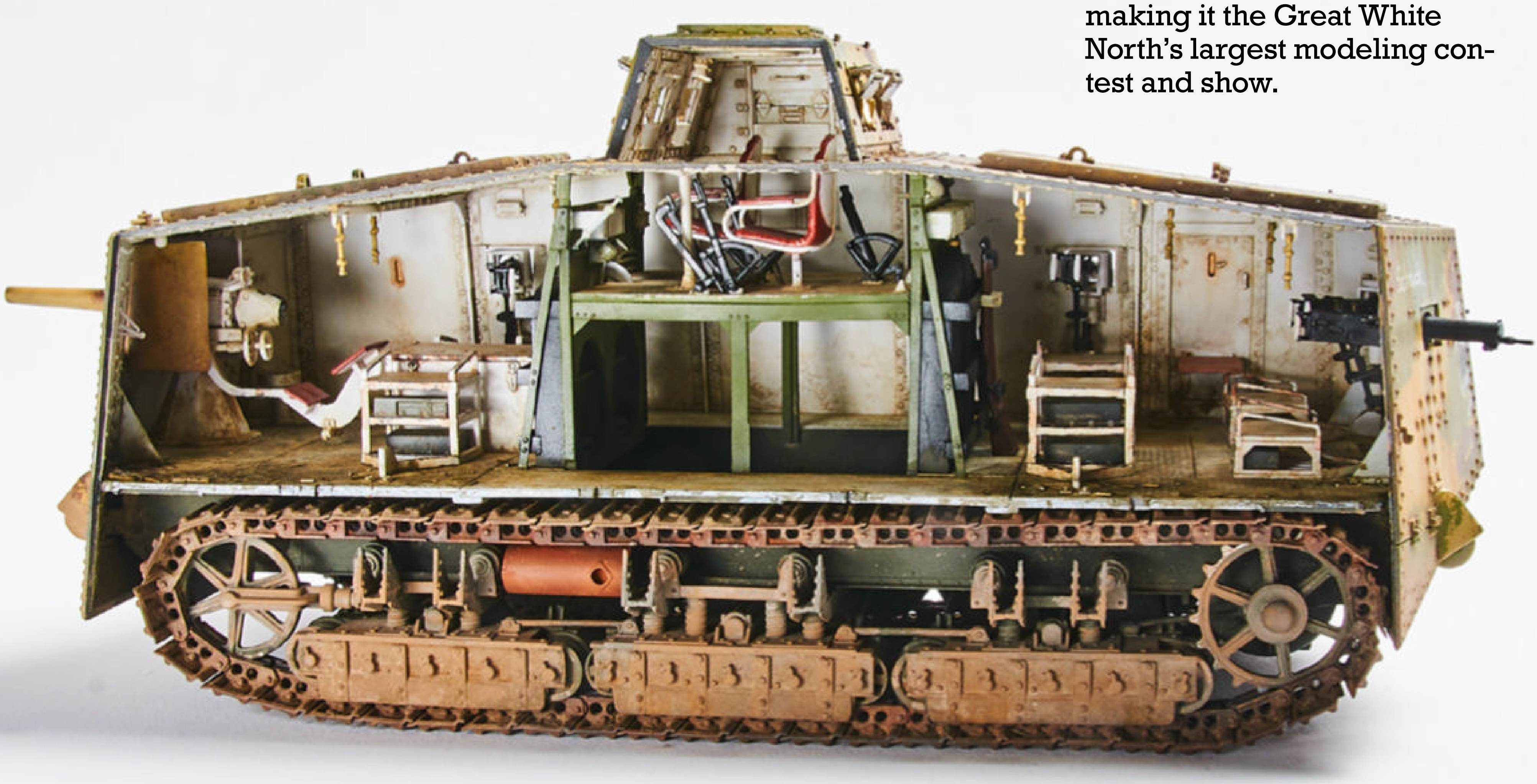
◀ **ROGER SAMS**

BELLEVUE, NEBRASKA

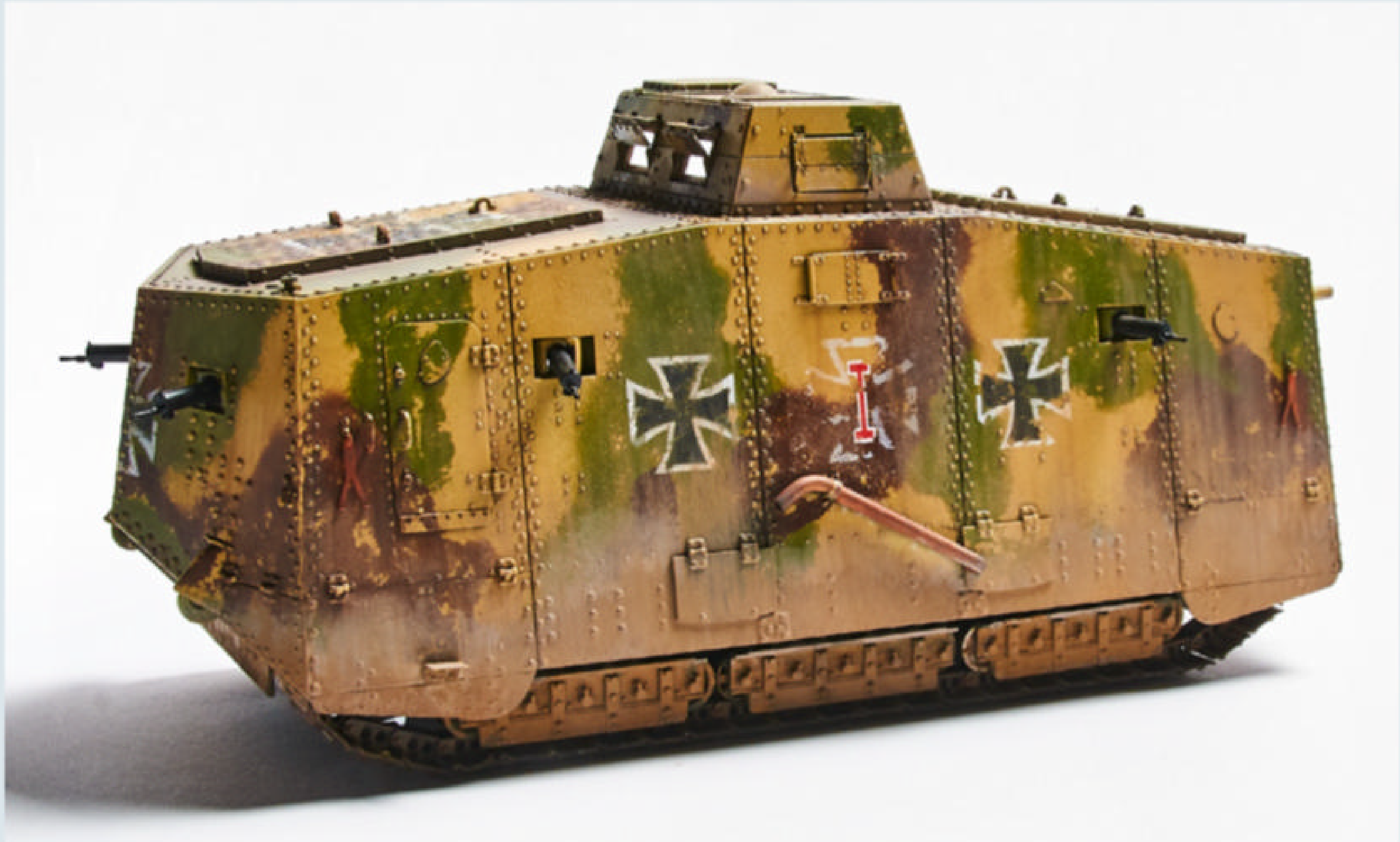
To focus his vignette of a German soldier in Italy in summer 1944, Roger detailed a Tamiya 1/35 scale Simca 5 by opening the side vent, dressing up the dashboard, and scratchbuilding apples and vegetables for the cargo. He painted the camouflage with Vallejo acrylics and weathered with Citadel ink washes and Mig Productions pigments. In addition to Woodland Scenics and Vallejo Game Color groundwork, the base includes a wall made from balsa foam.

HeritageCon 2022

Clustered beneath the full-size aircraft at the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum in Mount Hope, Ontario, in March 2022, were the contest tables of HeritageCon. The event attracted 729 models from 674 entrants from eastern Canada and the U.S., making it the Great White North's largest modeling contest and show.



▲▶ **JOHNNY YU**
WATERLOO, ONTARIO, CANADA
Johnny's Meng 1/35 scale World War I German A7V tank was built almost completely out of the box. The only detail he added were machine-gun shells made from brass rod. Johnny sprayed AK Interactive to paint the camo freehand and weathered with chipping fluid, oil paints, and pigments.



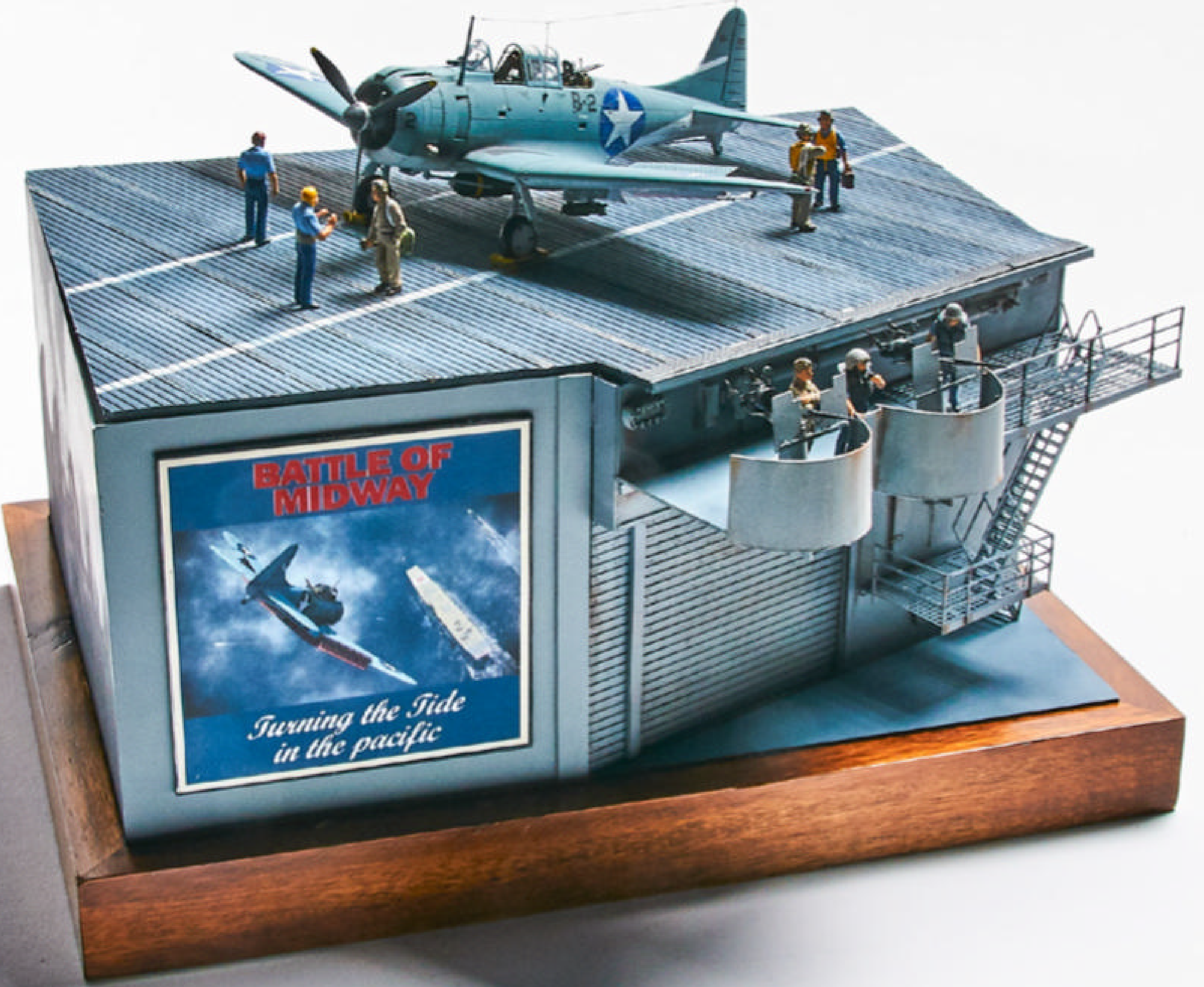
BOB WILLIAMS
PARIS, ONTARIO, CANADA
The Kinetic 1/48 scale CF-188A Hornet is an "excellent kit," Bob says. He finished his model of the fighter celebrating the Canadian Sesquicentennial with Testors enamels and custom mixed colors. Because it was a demo aircraft, Bob left it clean, showing off the bright, untarnished markings.

◀ **NICOLÁS TEJADA**
BRAMPTON, ONTARIO, CANADA
Presenting a new RX-78 Gundam ready for battle, Nicolás finished his 1/100 scale Bandai kit with a clean custom paint job from Tamiya spray cans.

▲ **RICARDO SALAMÉ**
BURLINGTON, ONTARIO, CANADA
Typically a builder of real-space models, Ricardo went out of his comfort zone to build this Gunze Sangyo 1/35 scale vignette of a crashed Bf 109G-10 among sunflowers. He painted the scene, airplane, and figure with Tamiya and Model Master colors, and weathered with washes and artist oils.

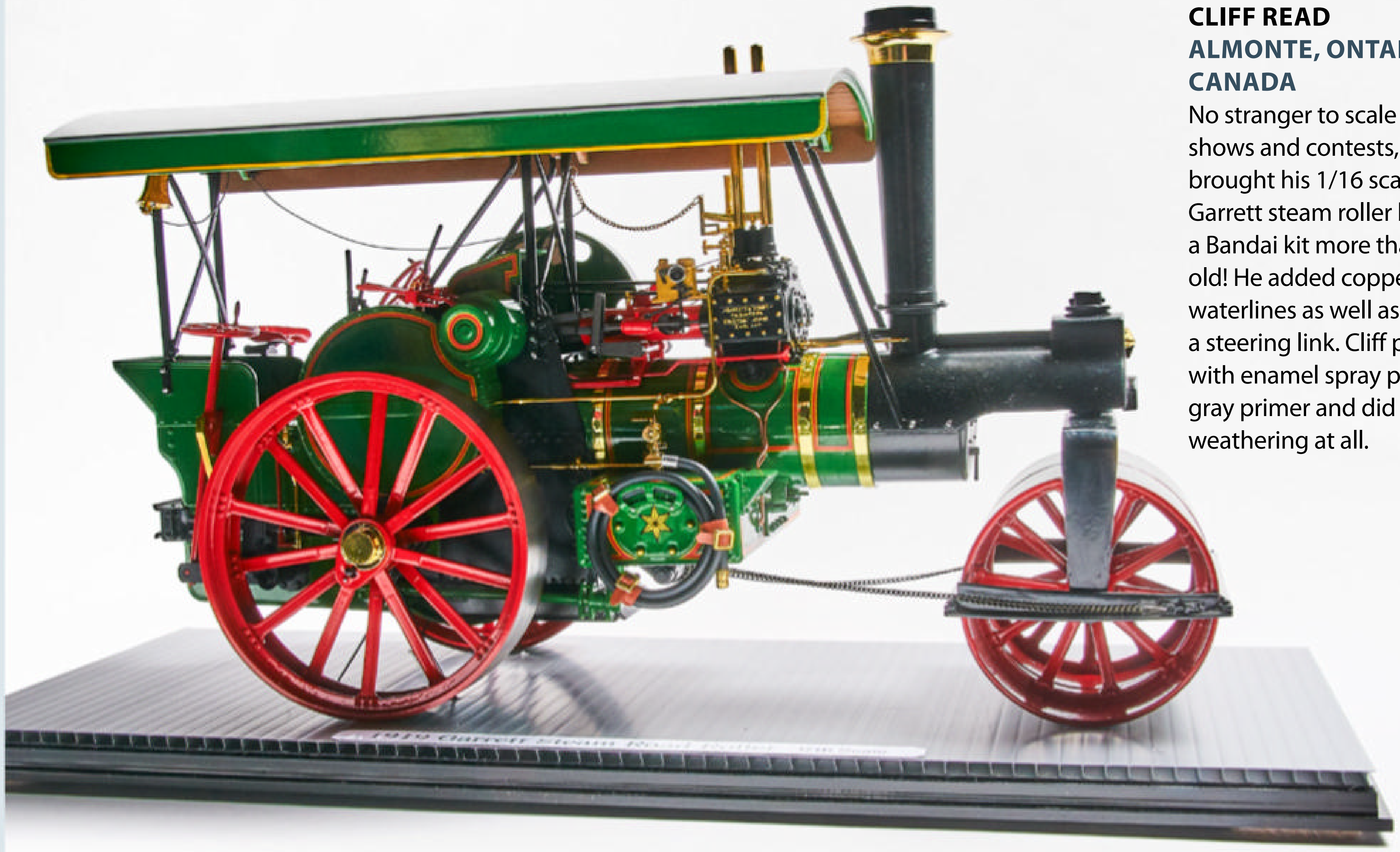
PAUL TIAN
MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO, CANADA

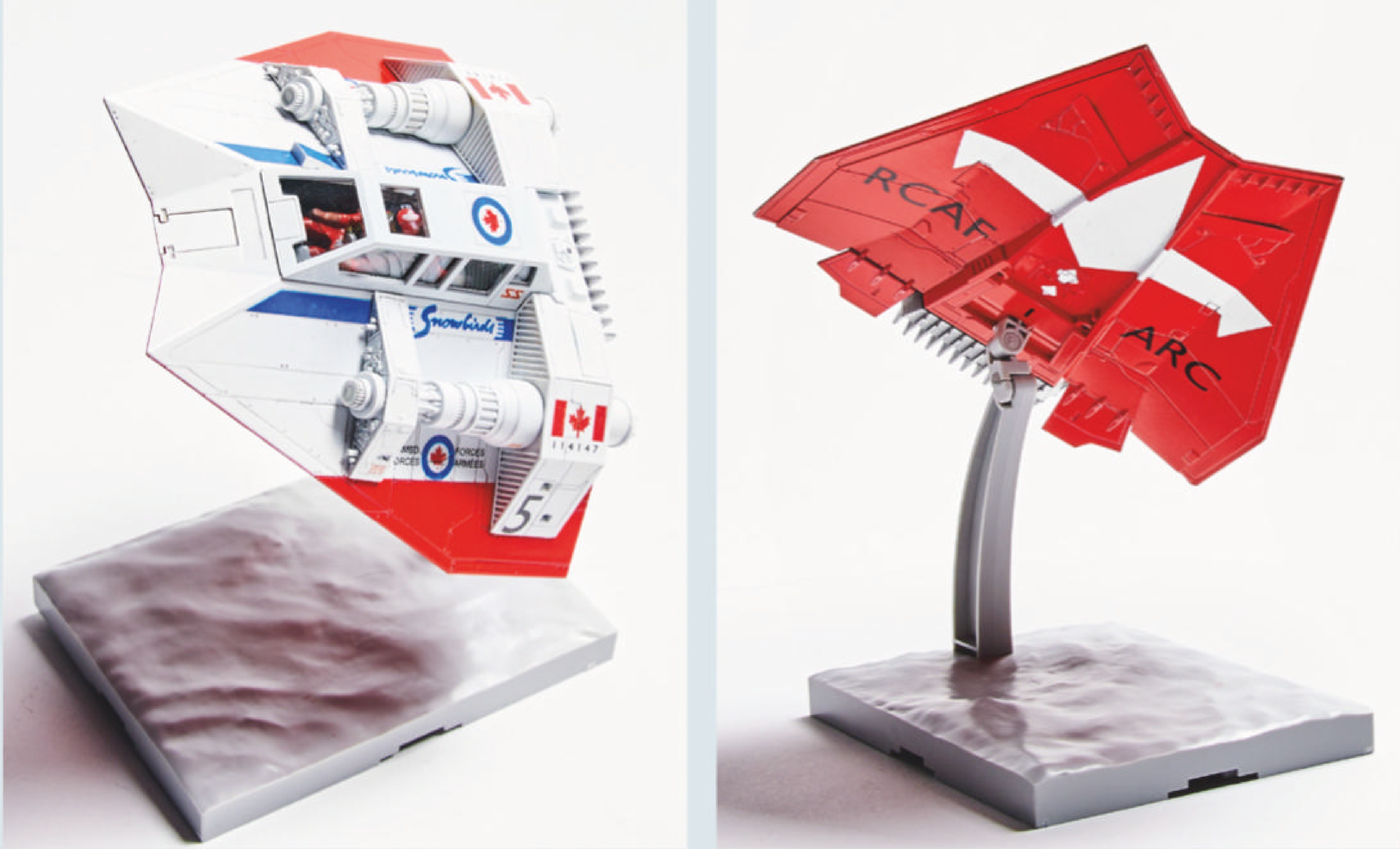
Paul's incredible 1/72 scale Battle of Midway diorama features Flyhawk's SBD-3 Dauntless on a scratchbuilt base made to commemorate the three U.S. aircraft carriers that took part in the battle. Tamiya and Mr. Hobby acrylics were Paul's paints of choice, and he added depth with washes and filters.



CLIFF READ
ALMONTE, ONTARIO, CANADA

No stranger to scale model shows and contests, Cliff brought his 1/16 scale 1919 Garrett steam roller built from a Bandai kit more than 40 years old! He added copper waterlines as well as chain and a steering link. Cliff painted with enamel spray paints over gray primer and did no weathering at all.

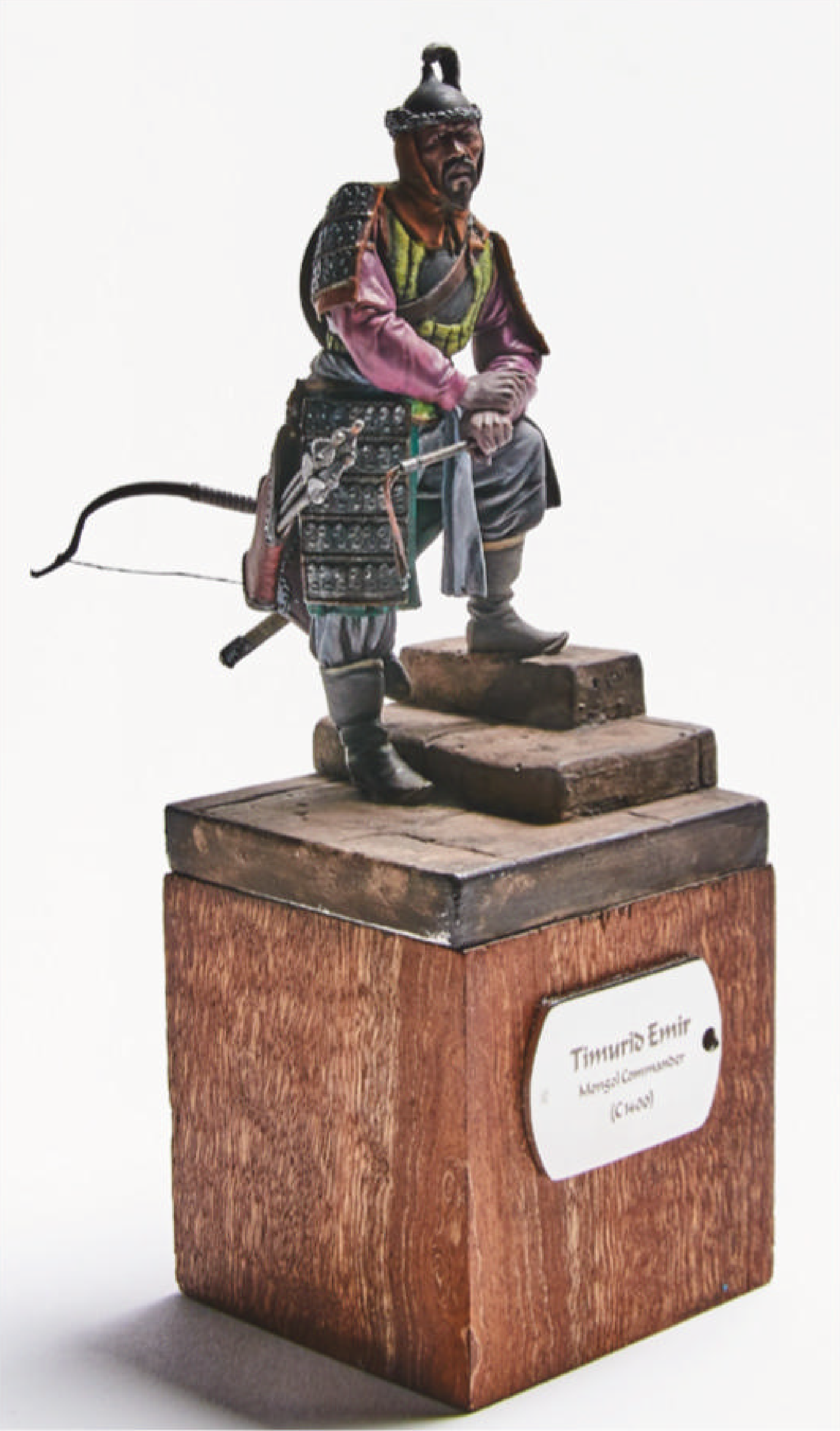




▲ JEREMY KENNEDY

BRAMPTON, ONTARIO, CANADA

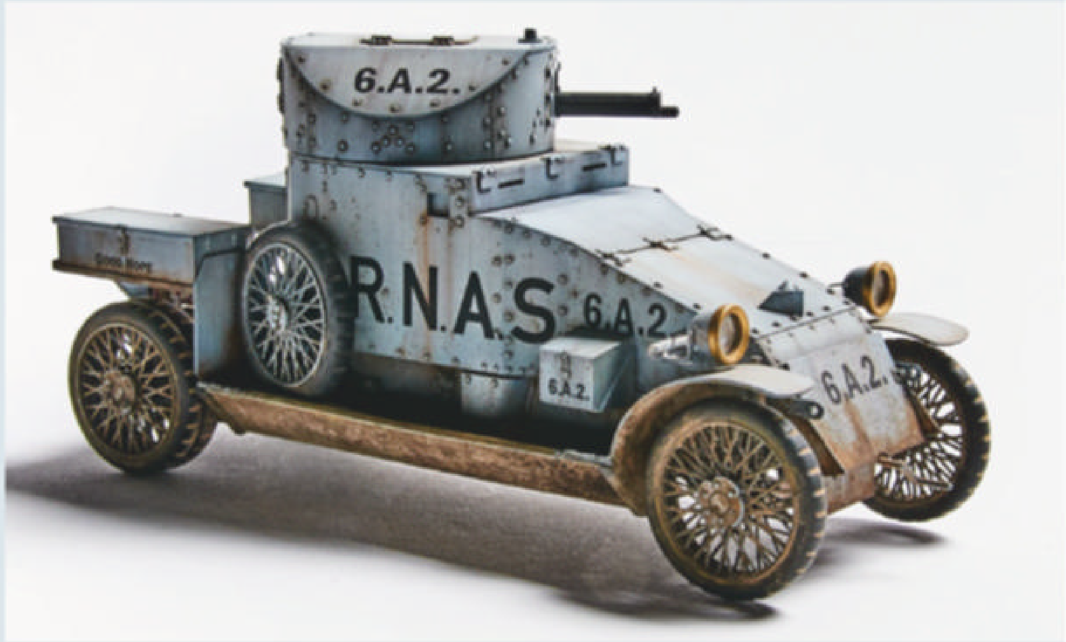
Taking a Bandai 1/48 scale *Star Wars* snowspeeder, Jeremy demilled the Rebel fighter and painted it in the colors of the Canadian Forces Snowbirds air-demonstration squadron. He made custom masks for the logos on a vinyl cutter and painted with Tamiya spray and acrylic paints.



◀ STEVE FALL

TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA

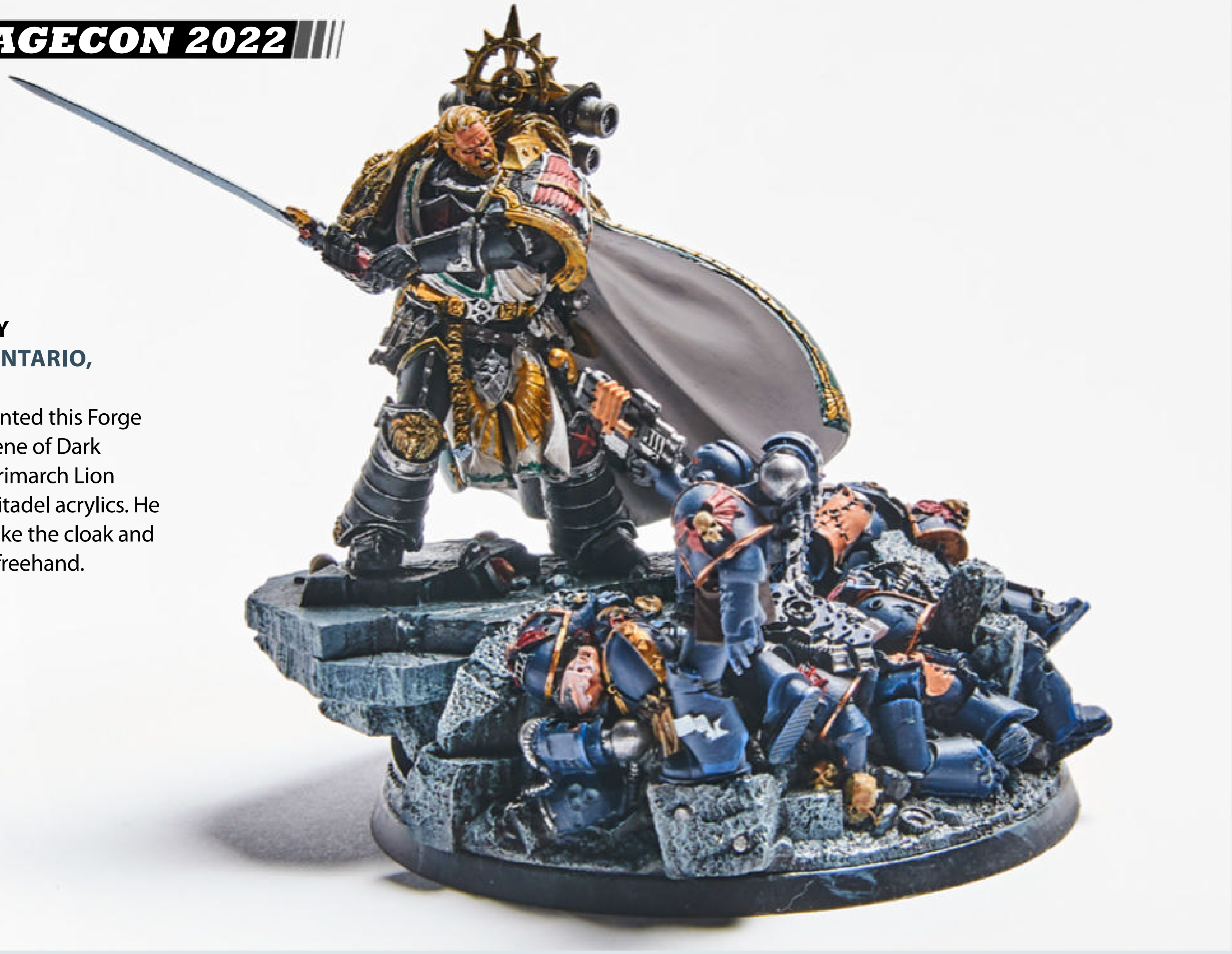
Poste Militaire's 90mm Timurid Emir figure, as Steve finished it, stares commandingly at viewers. Primed in black, it wears AK Interactive 3rd Gen colors, artists oils, and pigments for dust on its boots and base.



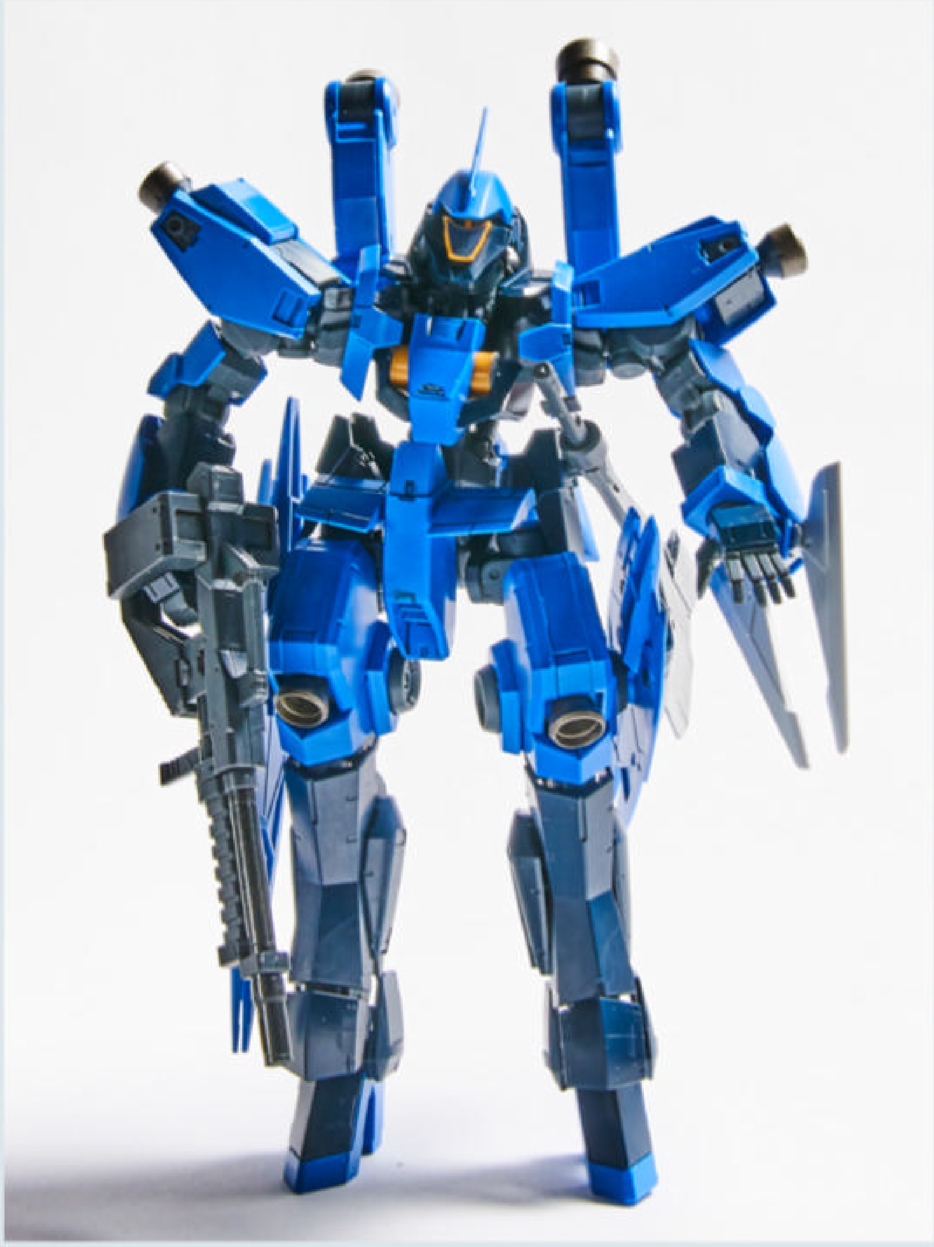
▲ DAVE FOREST

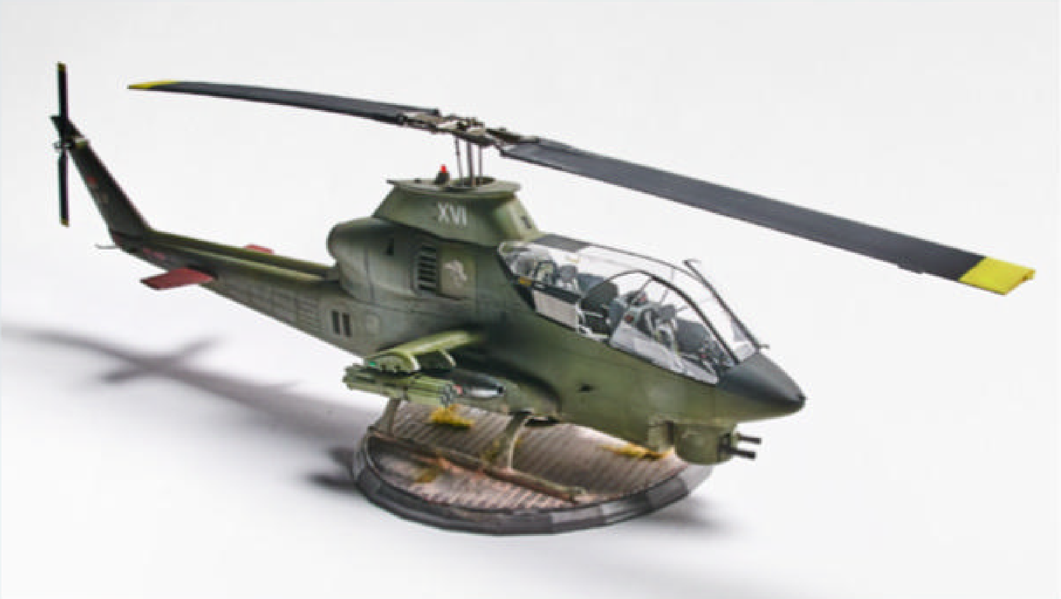
TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA

Dave upgraded his Copper State 1/35 scale Lanchester armored car with oil cans and a tarp. He airbrushed with Tamiya lacquers and weathered with pigments, oil paints, and enamels.



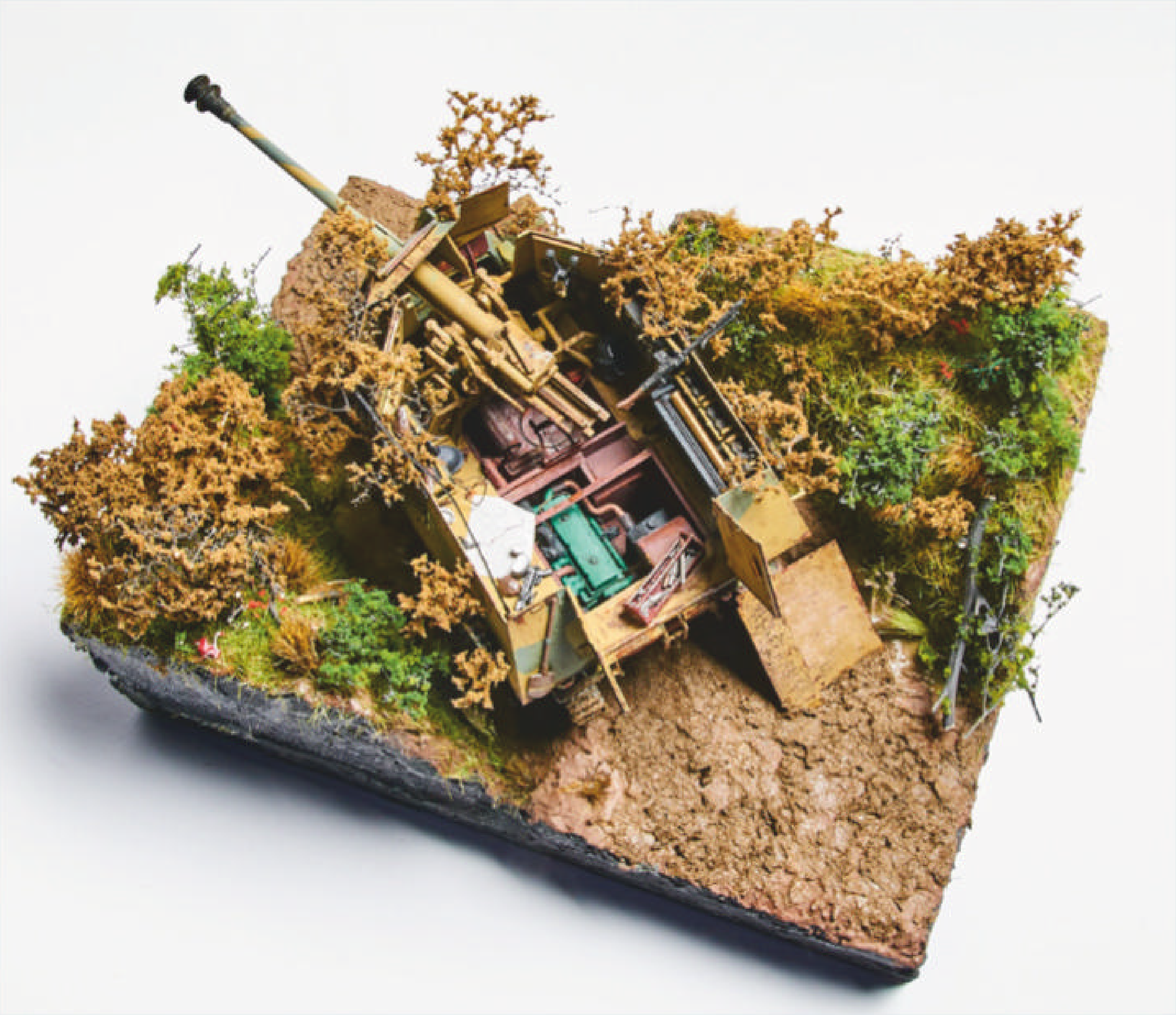
JAMES HOWEY
WATERLOO, ONTARIO, CANADA
James brush-painted this Forge World 28mm scene of Dark Angels Legion Primarch Lion El'Jonson with Citadel acrylics. He painted details like the cloak and other markings freehand.

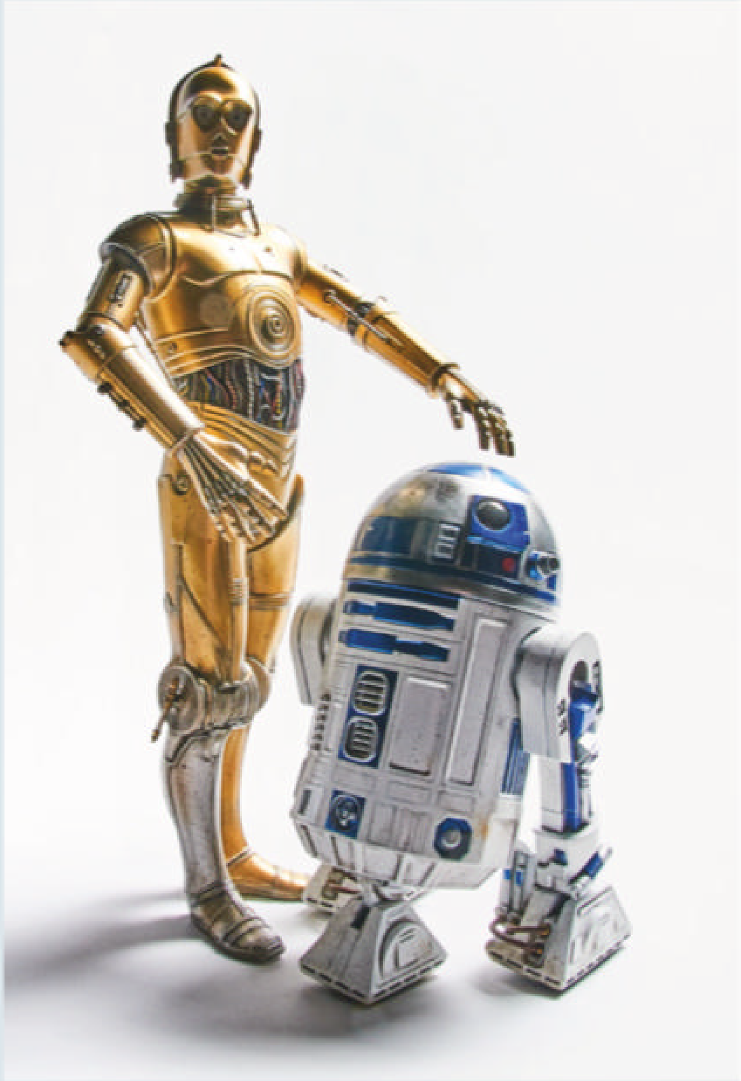




▲ **ROB TREMBLAY**
MOUNT HOPE, ONTARIO, CANADA
ICM's big 1/32 scale AH-1G Cobra is center stage in Rob's build. He detailed the cockpit with Quinta Studio 3D-printed decals. The base is a combination of 3D-printed and resin parts. He weathered with Flory washes, artist oils, and picked out details with Tamiya Panel Line Wash.

◀ **ARIELLE MERRITT-MURRELL**
OAKVILLE, ONTARIO, CANADA
An anime and manga fan, Arielle, 13, showed off her Bandai 1/144 scale Schwalbe Graze Gundam piloted by McGillis Fareed in the *Mobile Suit Gundam Iron-Blooded Orphans* TV series. She painted details with Tamiya colors and mildly weathered with Ammo by Mig Jimenez products.





▲ **ROBIN FINDLAY**

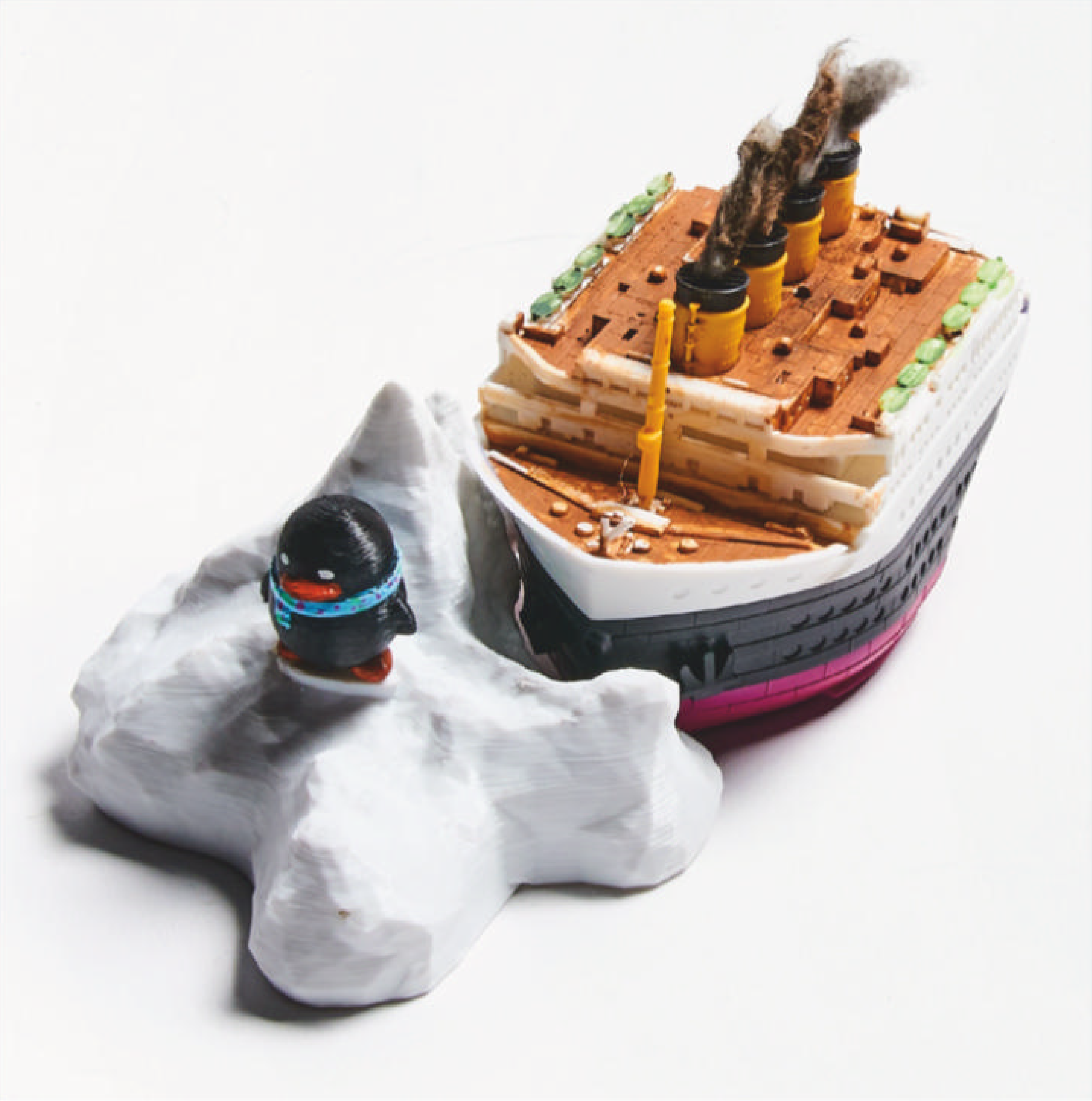
HAMILTON, ONTARIO, CANADA

"Anyone have a fan belt?" is the name of Robin's 1/35 scale vignette featuring a Bronco Geschutzwagen 39H (F). He corrected the driver's compartment, motor intake and exhaust, and scratchbuilt a headset for the radio. The base is foam insulation covered with stucco painted brown and foliage.

▲ **ROSS WADDELL**

TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA

These are the droids you're looking for! Ross built the vinyl Kaiyodo 1/6 scale C-3PO and R2-D2 but upgraded the details. He added wires to the protocol droid's belly; on R2, he installed rollers in all the feet, springs for hoses on the left and right feet, and custom decals on the dome. Ross dressed R2 in Tamiya Gloss White with an AK Interactive Xtreme Metal dome; 3PO was painted Createx Gold.

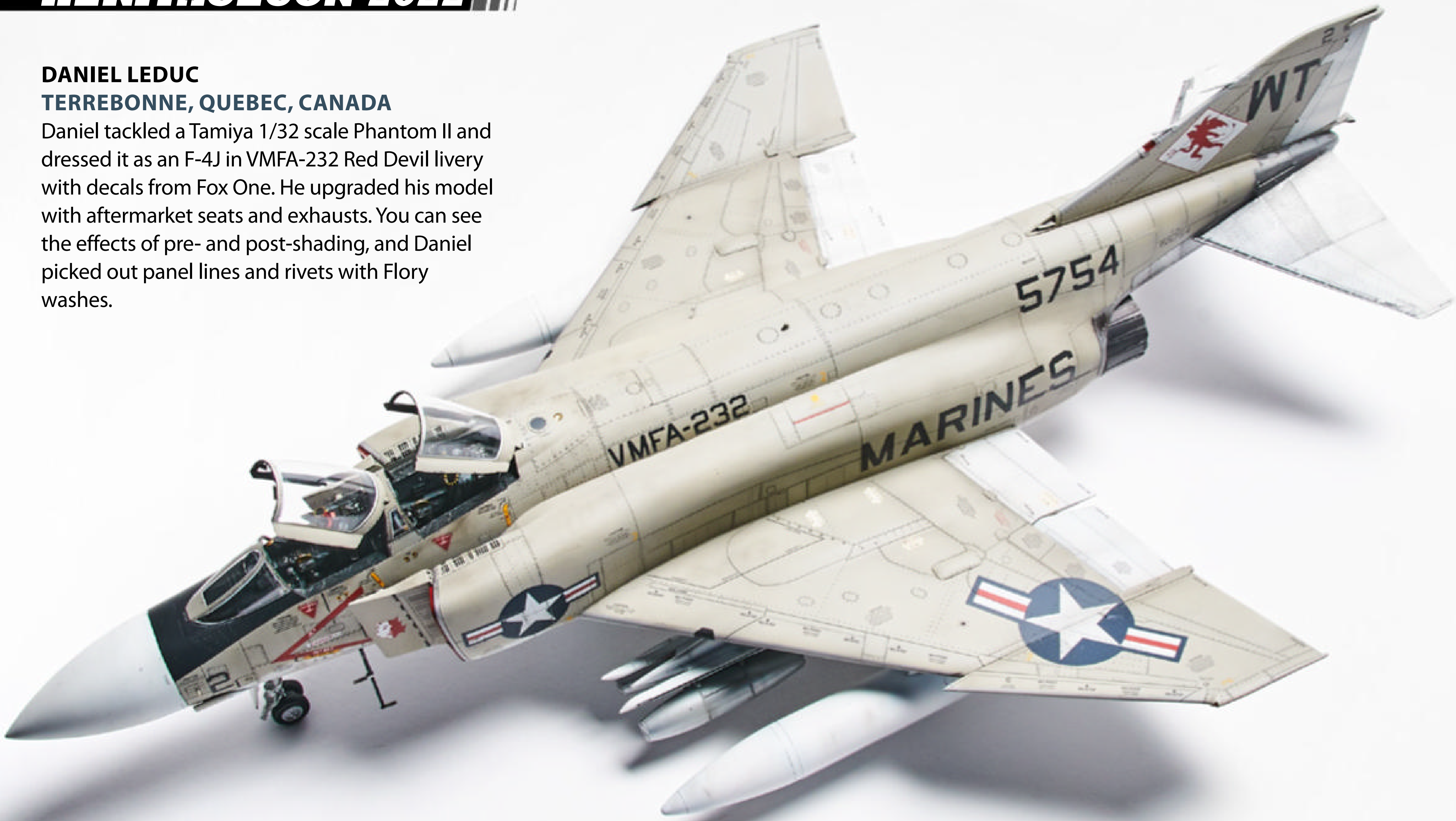


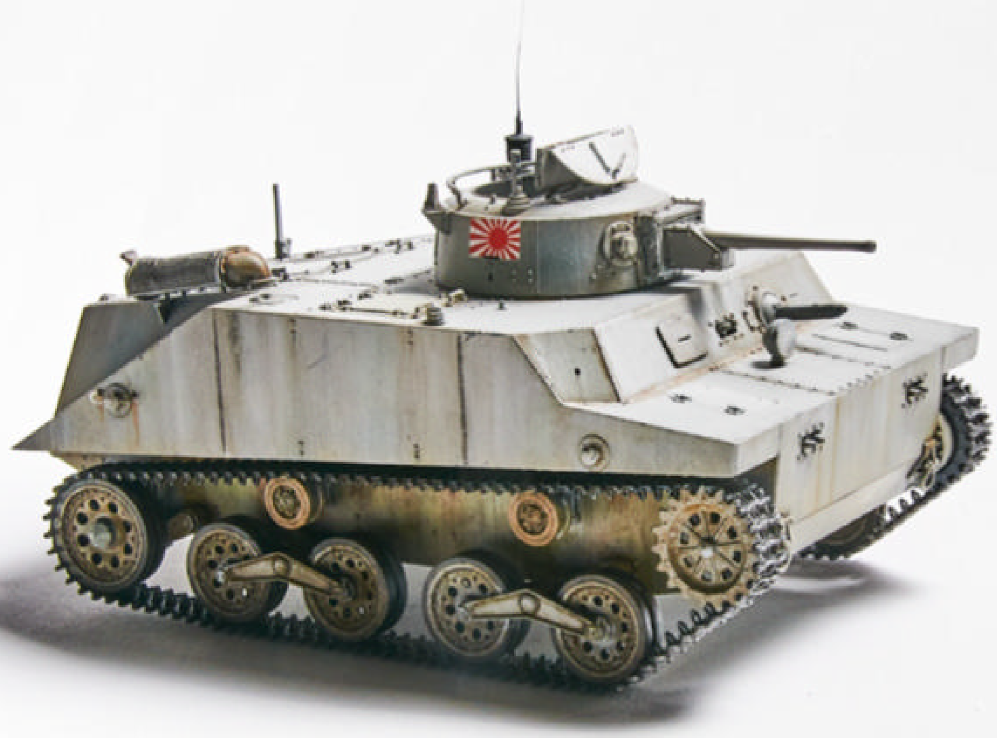
◀ **OLIVIA GERMANN**

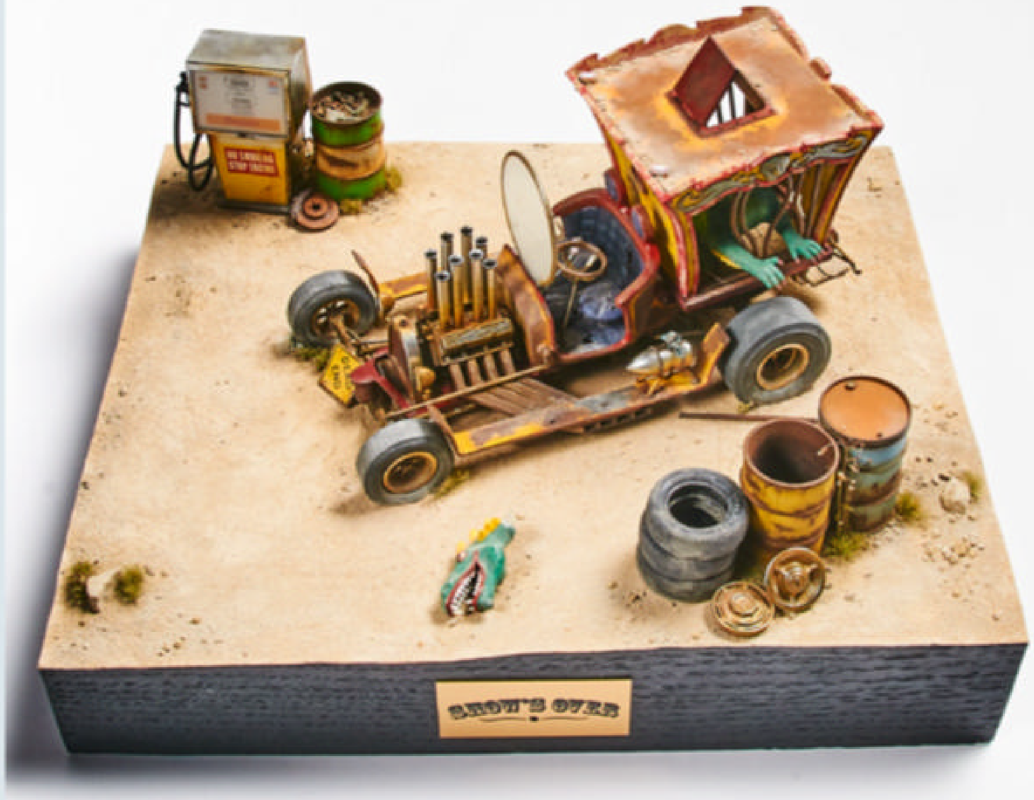
ELMIRA, ONTARIO, CANADA

"Revealed! Penguin orchestrates *Titanic* sinking!" Olivia, 8, finished her Meng egg-scale RMS *Titanic* with Vallejo acrylics and used an airbrush to do it. She placed the ill-fated passenger ship next to a 3D-printed iceberg and penguin. Olivia says she painted "very carefully" and used pigments for the smokestacks.

DANIEL LEDUC
TERREBONNE, QUEBEC, CANADA
Daniel tackled a Tamiya 1/32 scale Phantom II and dressed it as an F-4J in VMFA-232 Red Devil livery with decals from Fox One. He upgraded his model with aftermarket seats and exhausts. You can see the effects of pre- and post-shading, and Daniel picked out panel lines and rivets with Flory washes.

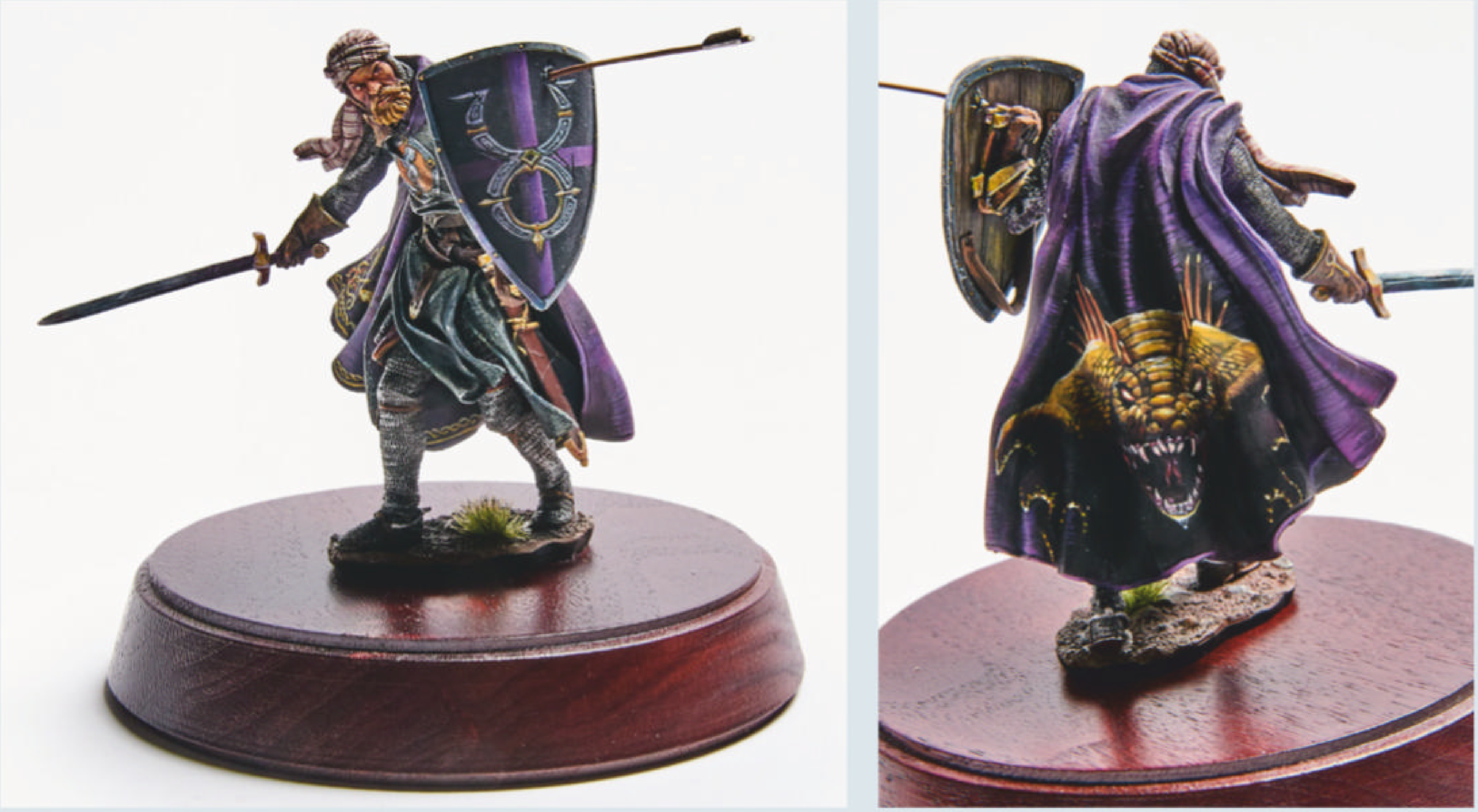






▲ **VICTOR CONSTANTINESCU**
PICKERING, ONTARIO, CANADA
Looking to model a very worn, amphibious tank, Victor settled on the Dragon 1/35 scale Japanese Special Type 2 Ka-Mi. He sprayed a Tamiya Dark Gray base and went over it with Light Gray and provided some chipping. Further weathering came in the form of artist-oil washes and pigments.

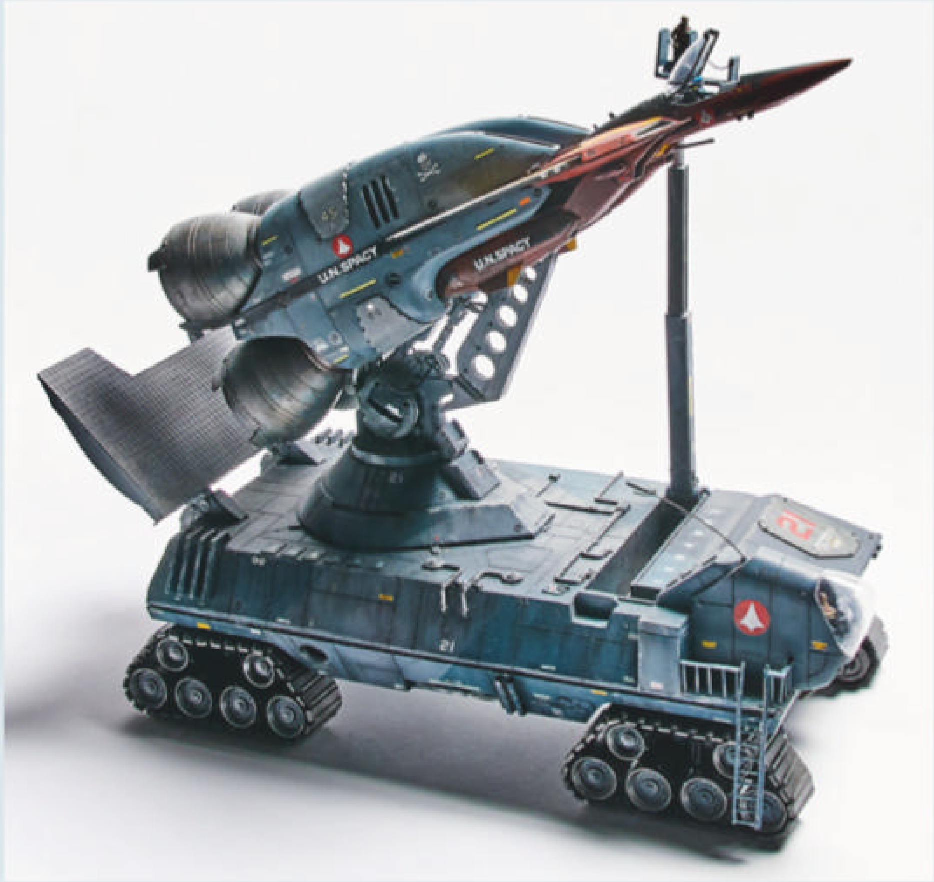
▲ **CHRIS CHAPMAN**
NORTHBROOK, ILLINOIS
The *Show's Over* diorama features the classic Monogram 1/24 scale *Dragon Wagon*. Chris heavily modified the kit and added a Doozy gas pump, oil drums, and beer cans to set the scene. He painted with Tamiya and LifeColor acrylics and used the hairspray method for chipping.



▲ **SIMON LAM**

MARKHAM, ONTARIO, CANADA

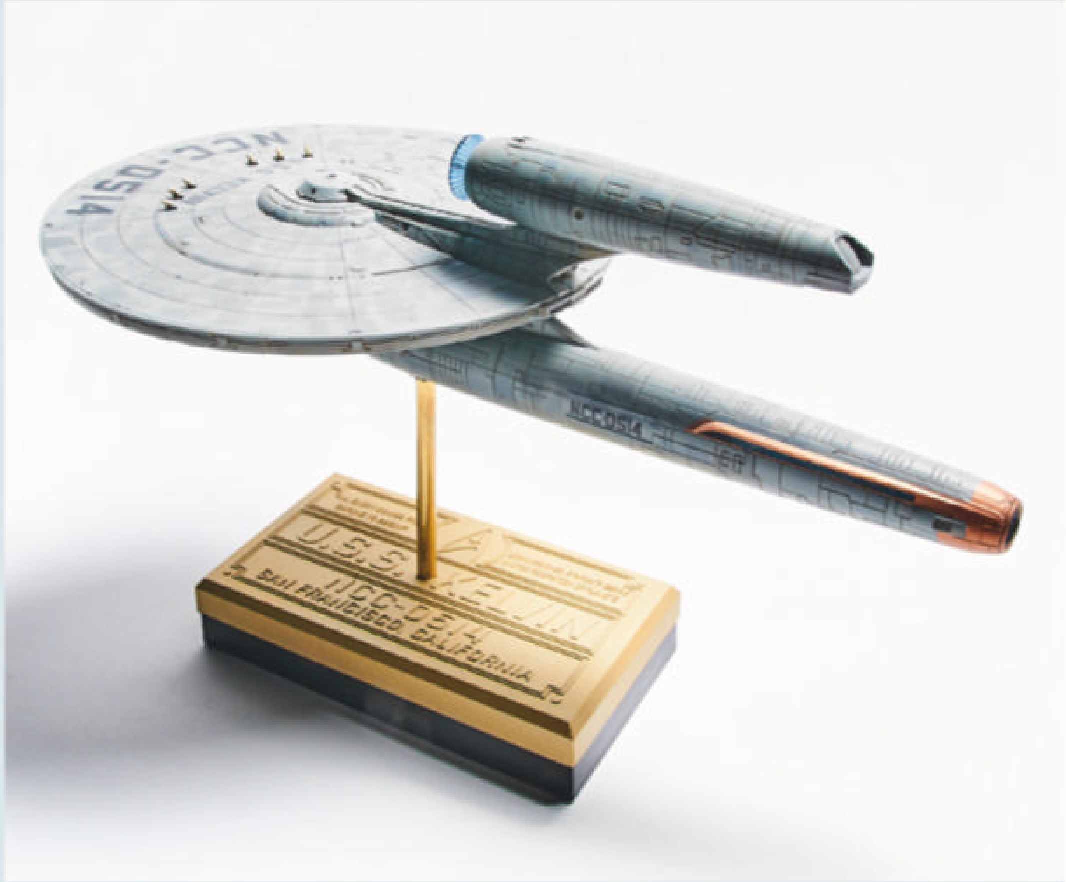
Simon painted this Scale75 75mm figure of a medieval knight as a tribute to the *Ultima* computer game franchise he enjoyed as a child. He employed Scale75, Vallejo, and AK Interactive 3rd Gen acrylics for the work. "A lot of research was done to replicate the art and style," Simon says. This character is ready to begin his quest of the avatar.



▲ **JONATHAN BOTTING**

ALLISTON, ONTARIO, CANADA

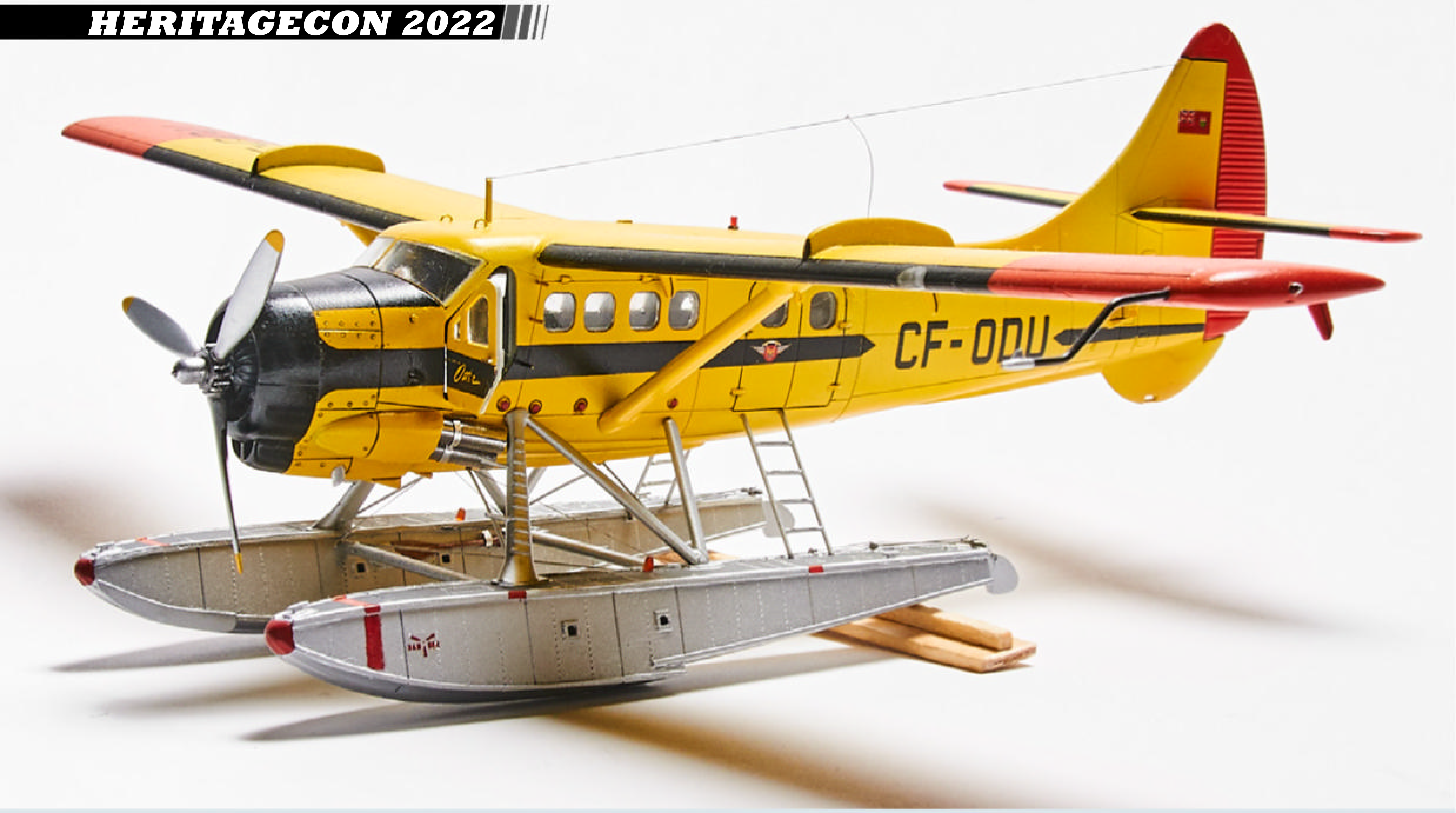
Jonathan modeled an atmospheric launch crawler from the *Macross* (*Robotech*) saga. The 1/72 scale model incorporates a Valkyrie fighter from Hasegawa and resin parts for the launcher. Jonathan scratchbuilt the engines in the boosters and painted and weathered with Tamiya products.



▲ **SHAWN FINDLAY**

HAMILTON, ONTARIO, CANADA

From the J.J. Abrams *Star Trek* universe comes this Moebius Models 1/1000 scale USS *Kelvin*. Shawn added lights to the model, hiding the batteries in the base. He painted the Aztec paneling with Tamiya acrylics and used Frisket paper for masks.



▲ ALEX GREKOV

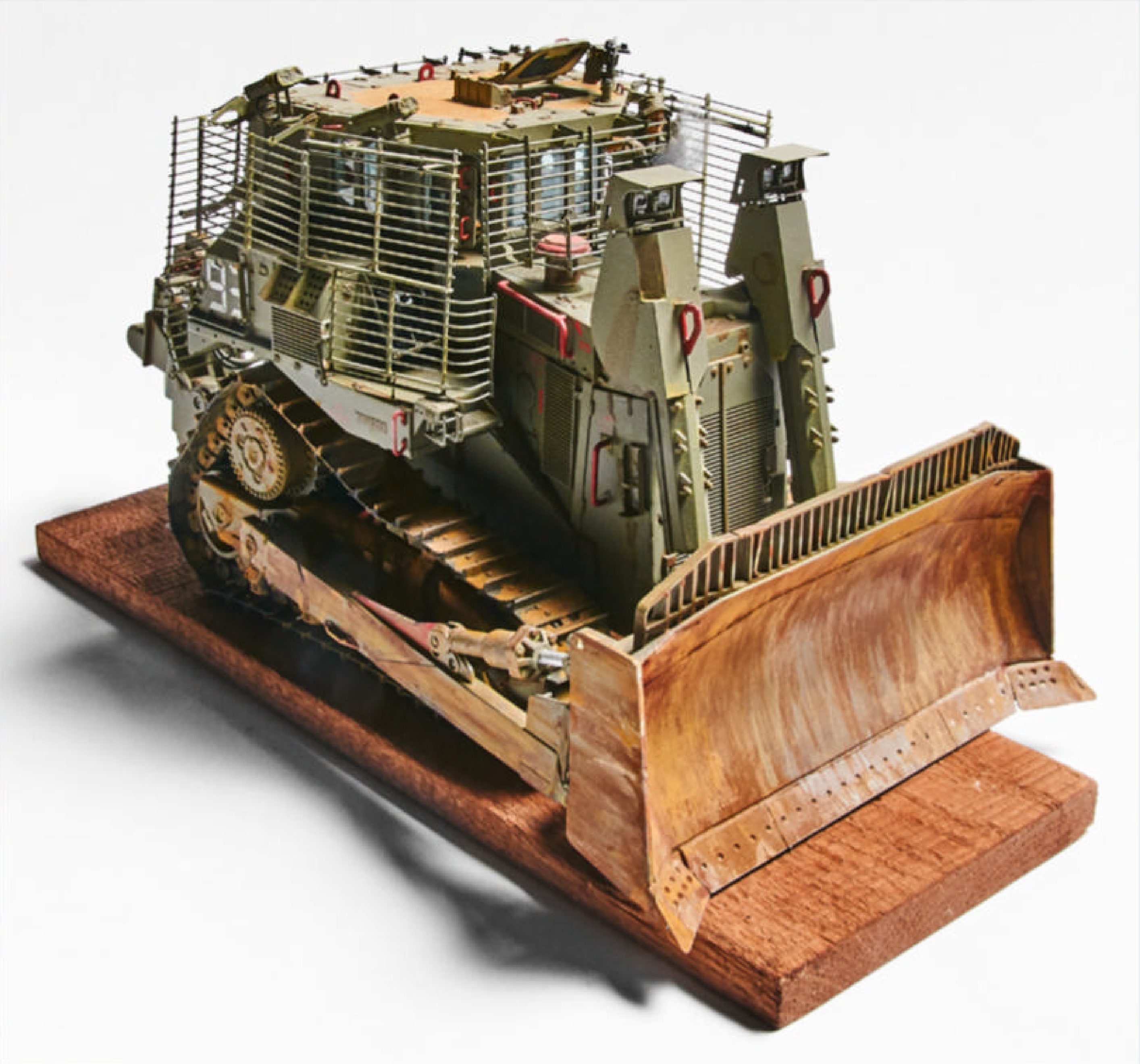
MONTREAL, QUEBEC, CANADA

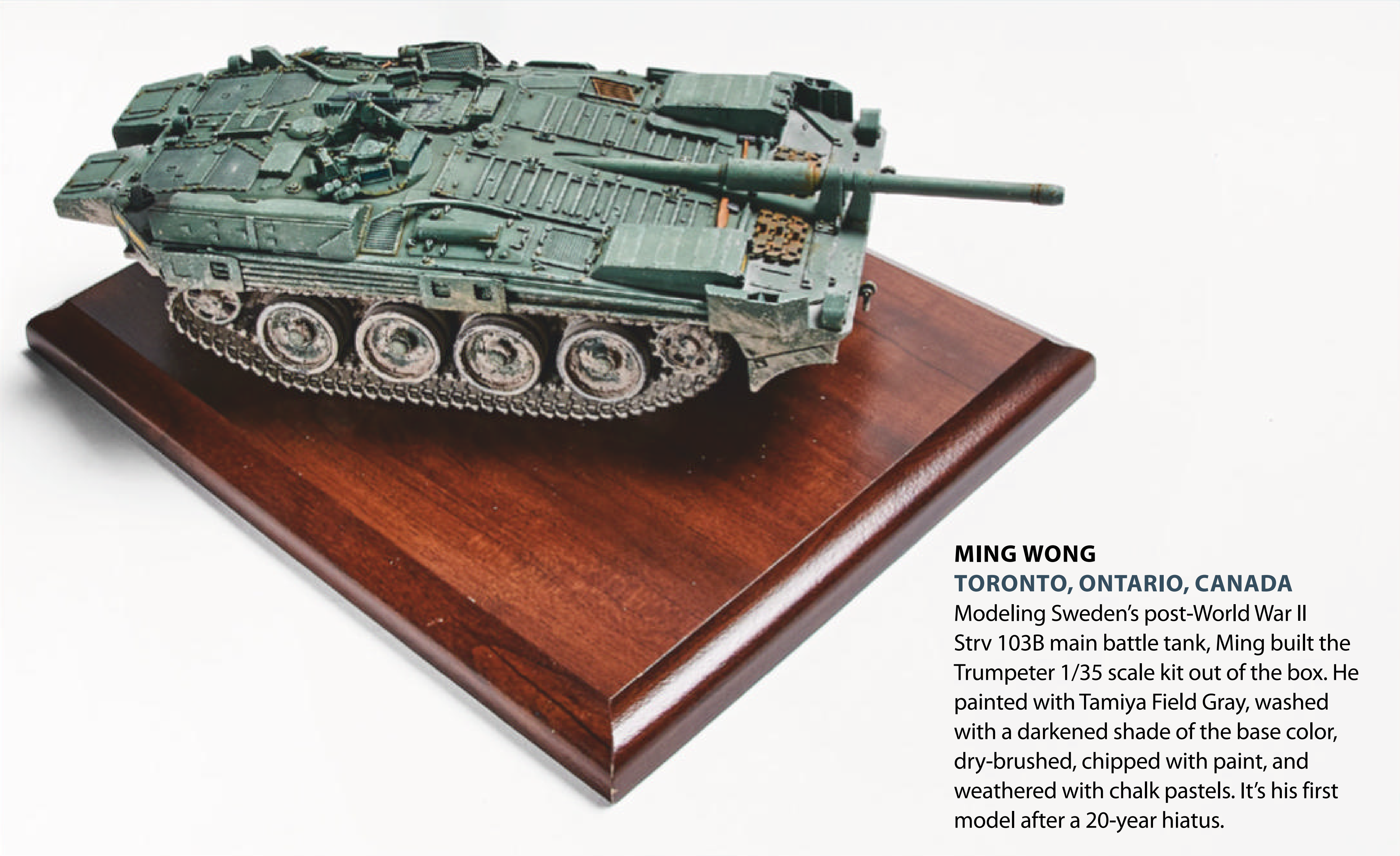
A 1/72 scale Hobbycraft DHC-3 Otter became an Ontario Provincial Air Service water bomber with Alex's help. He accurized the floats with styrene strips and added a resin engine up front. He airbrushed automotive primer first, followed by Model Master enamels and Flory washes.

► JOHN LOWREY

DUNDAS, ONTARIO, CANADA

John built his Meng 1/35 scale D9R armored bulldozer with upgrades, like Friulmodel tracks, photo-etched metal slat armor from Voyager, and an Israel Defense Force bulldozer crew from Valkyrie Miniatures.

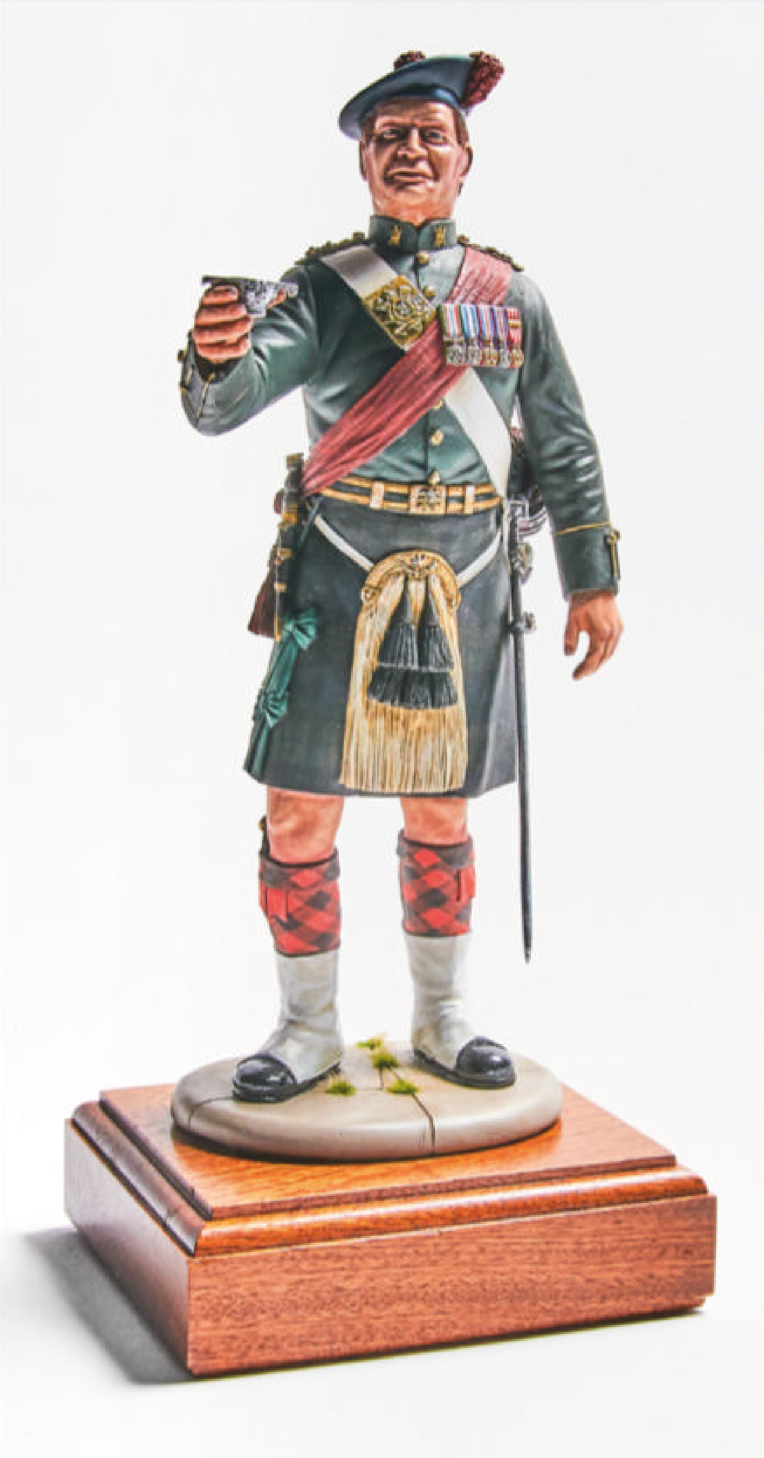


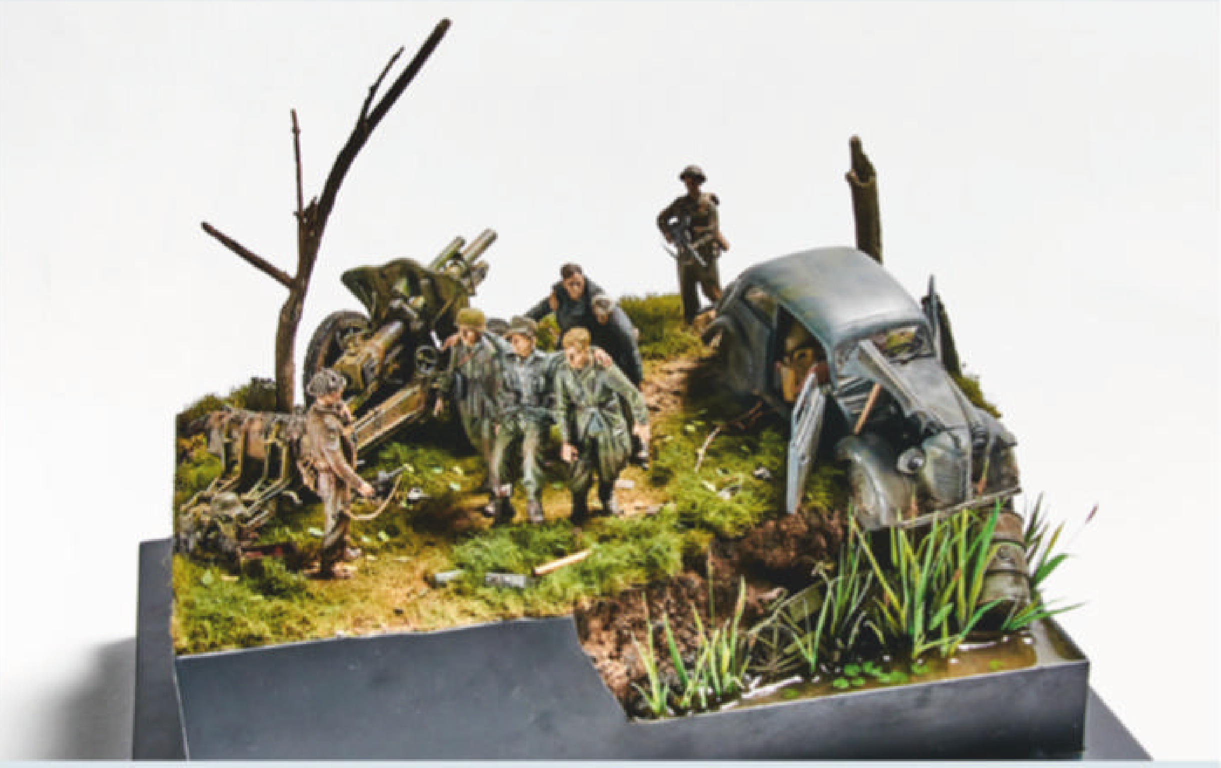


MING WONG

TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA

Modeling Sweden's post-World War II Strv 103B main battle tank, Ming built the Trumpeter 1/35 scale kit out of the box. He painted with Tamiya Field Gray, washed with a darkened shade of the base color, dry-brushed, chipped with paint, and weathered with chalk pastels. It's his first model after a 20-year hiatus.





▲ JORDAN BAKER

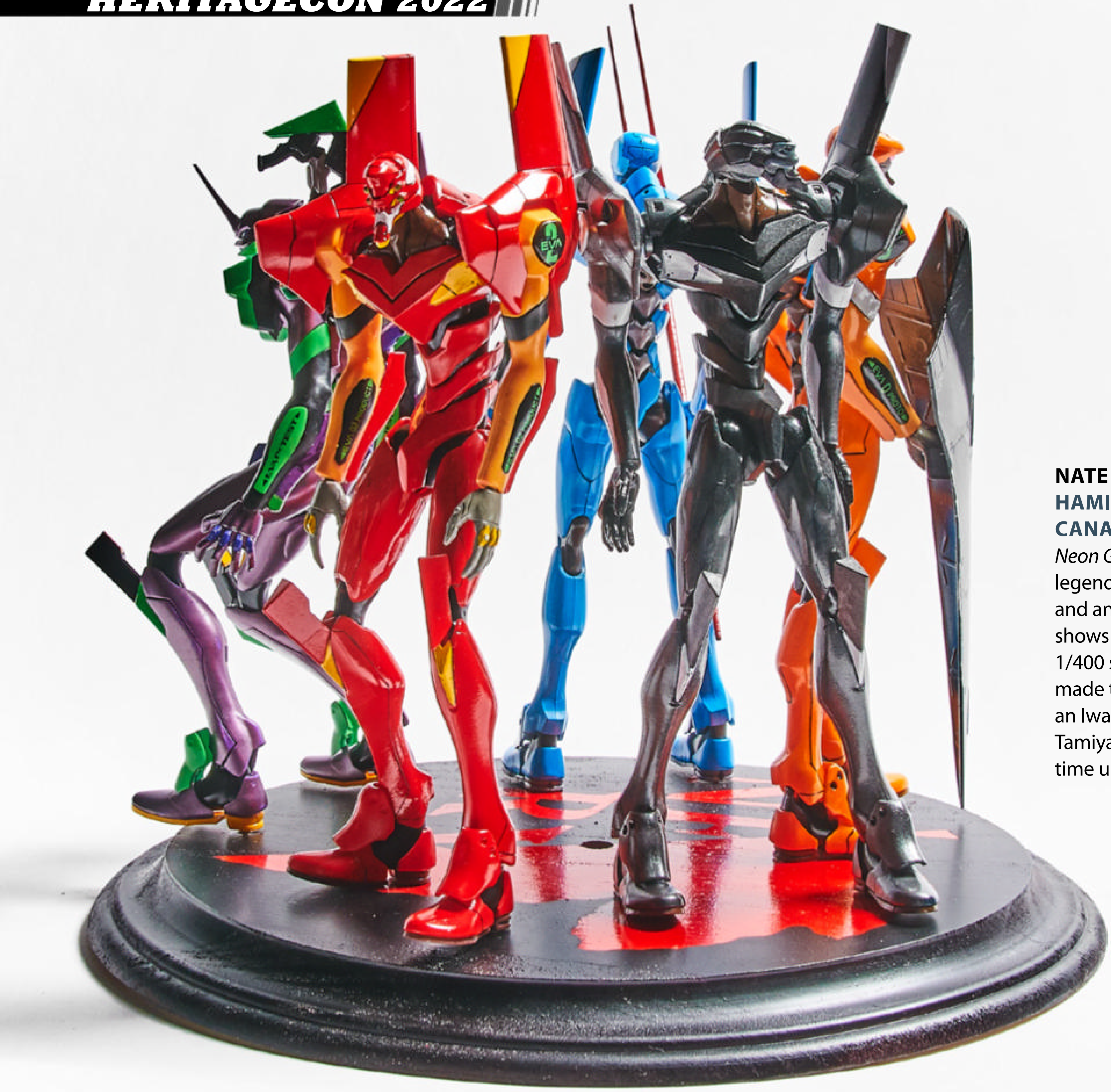
DUNNVILLE, ONTARIO, CANADA

"Five More in the Bag" depicts Canadian soldiers capturing five German prisoners in the Falaise Gap during World War II. Jordan used models from Nimrod, ICM, and AFV Club in his scene and combined his hand-painting and airbrush skills to get the finishes he was looking for.

◀ KIERAN BOYLE

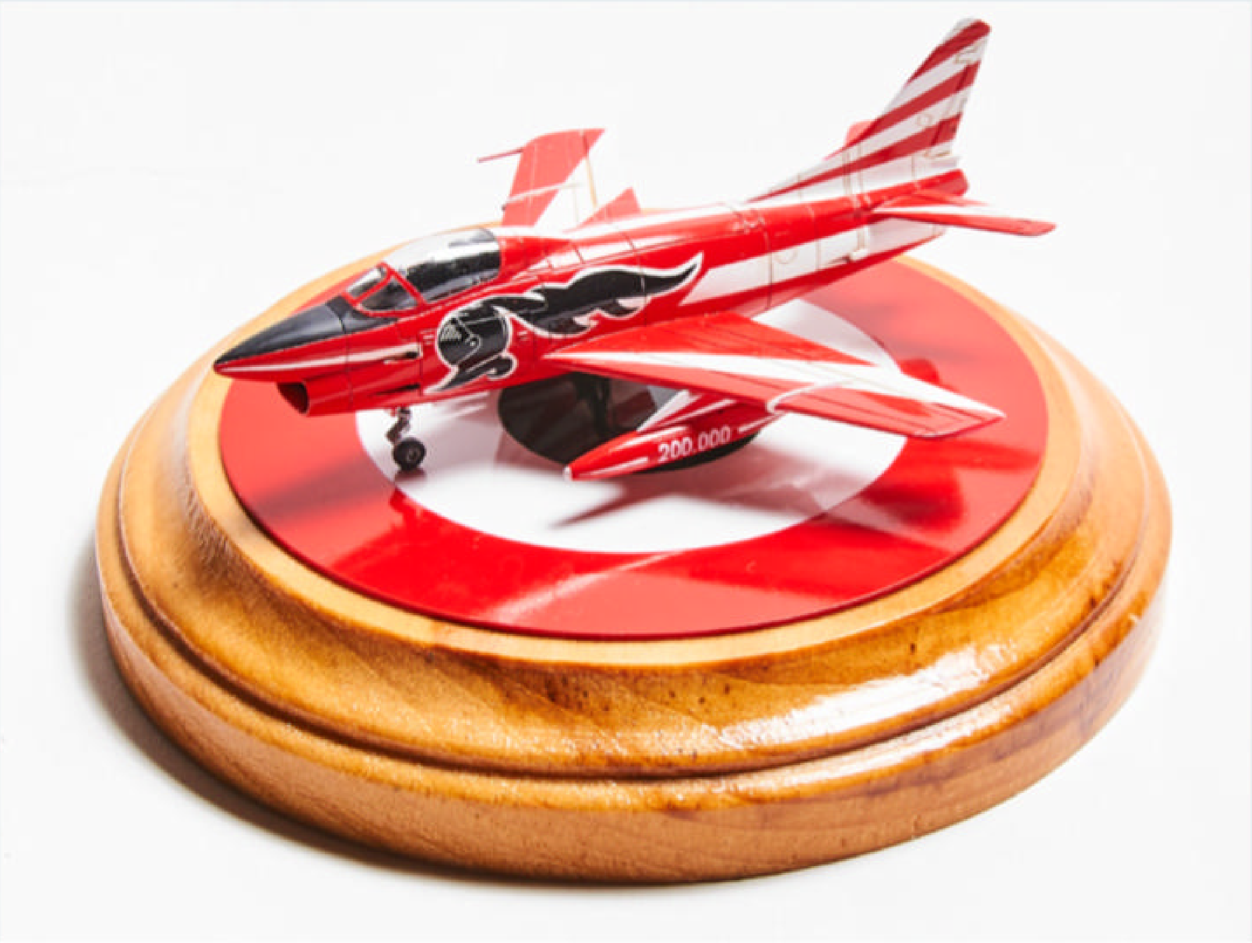
HAMILTON, ONTARIO, CANADA

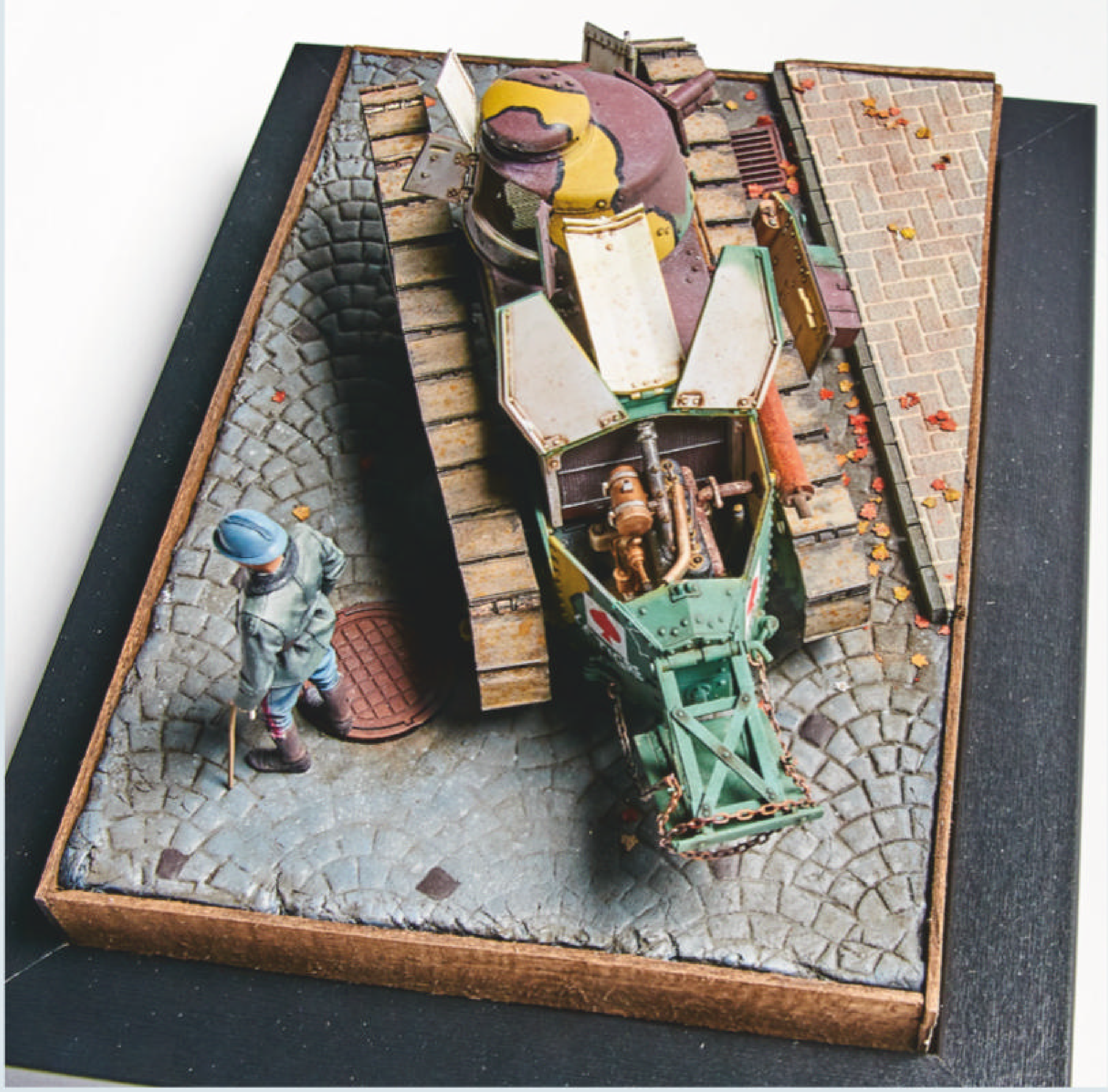
Kieran brought a limited-edition 200mm Officer of the Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) of Canada. He brush-painted the figure, sculpted by Alan Ball of MB Miniatures, with artist oils and acrylics.



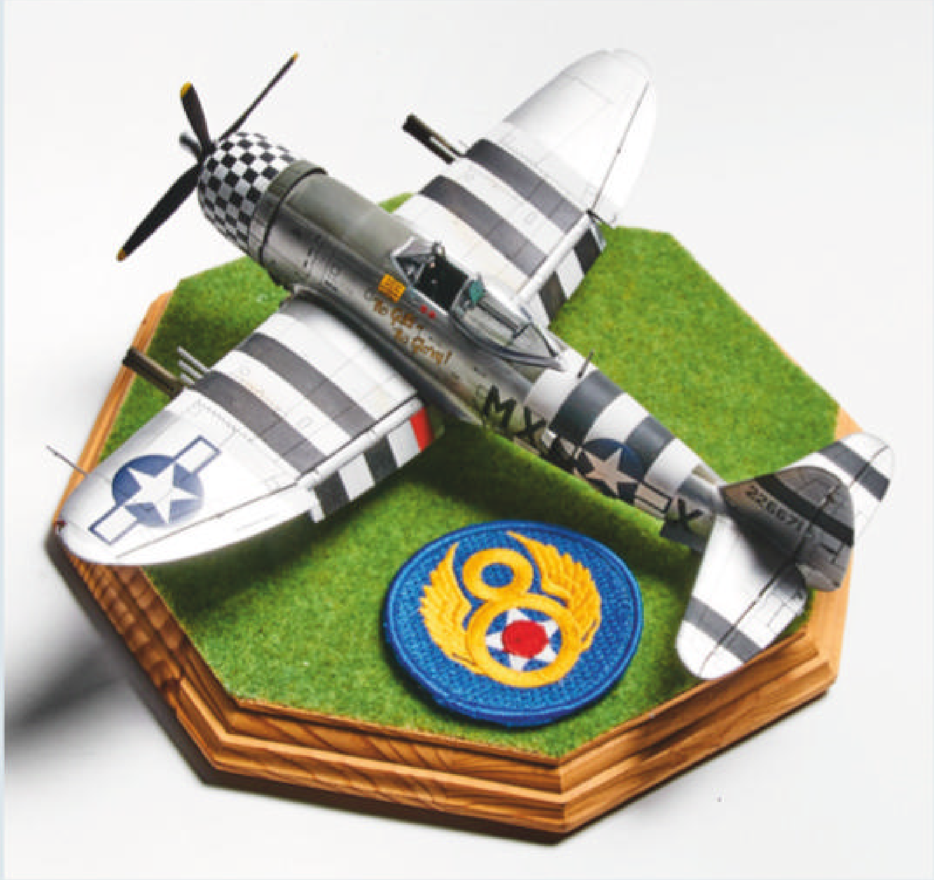
NATE BOTTING
HAMILTON, ONTARIO, CANADA
Neon Genesis Evangelion has legendary stature among manga and anime fans, and here Nate shows off his collection of five 1/400 scale EVAs from Bandai. He made the custom base and used an Iwata NEO airbrush with Tamiya acrylics; this was his first time using an airbrush!

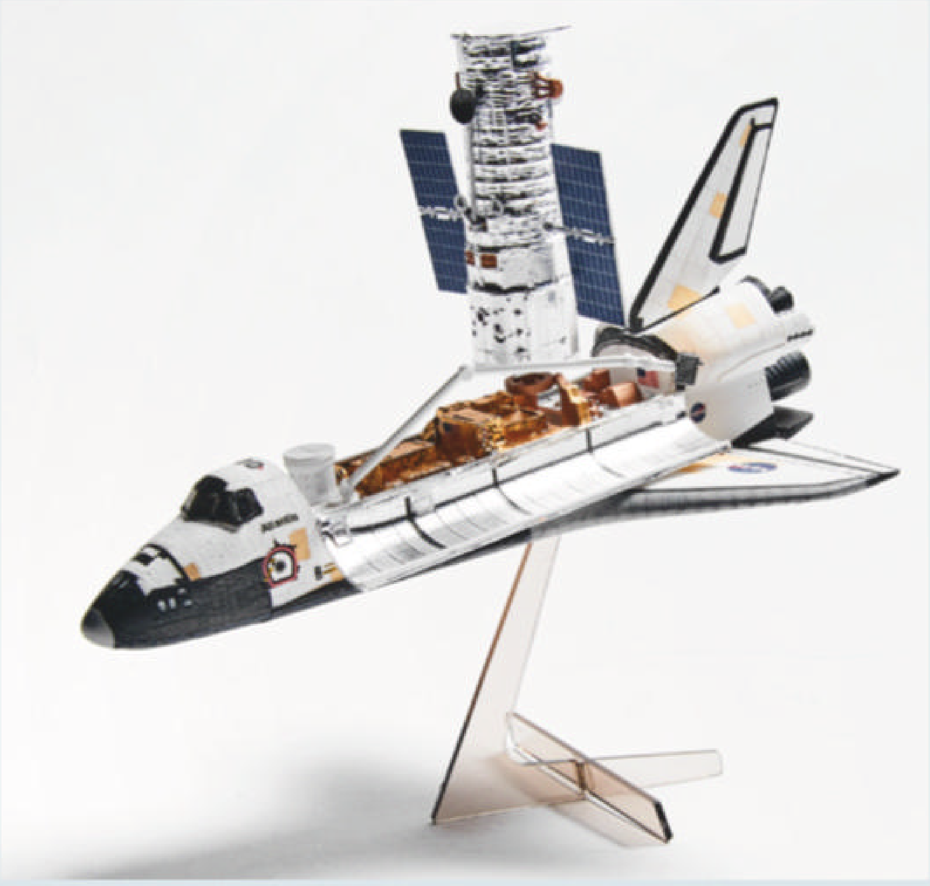
▶ **JOHN WONG**
TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA
For this model commemorating 200,000 hours of G.91 service in the Italian air force, John started with a Tamiya 1/100 scale Fiat G.91 and scratchbuilt the cockpit and vacuum-formed the canopy. He masked and painted all the markings except for the knight's head, which is a decal he designed and printed.





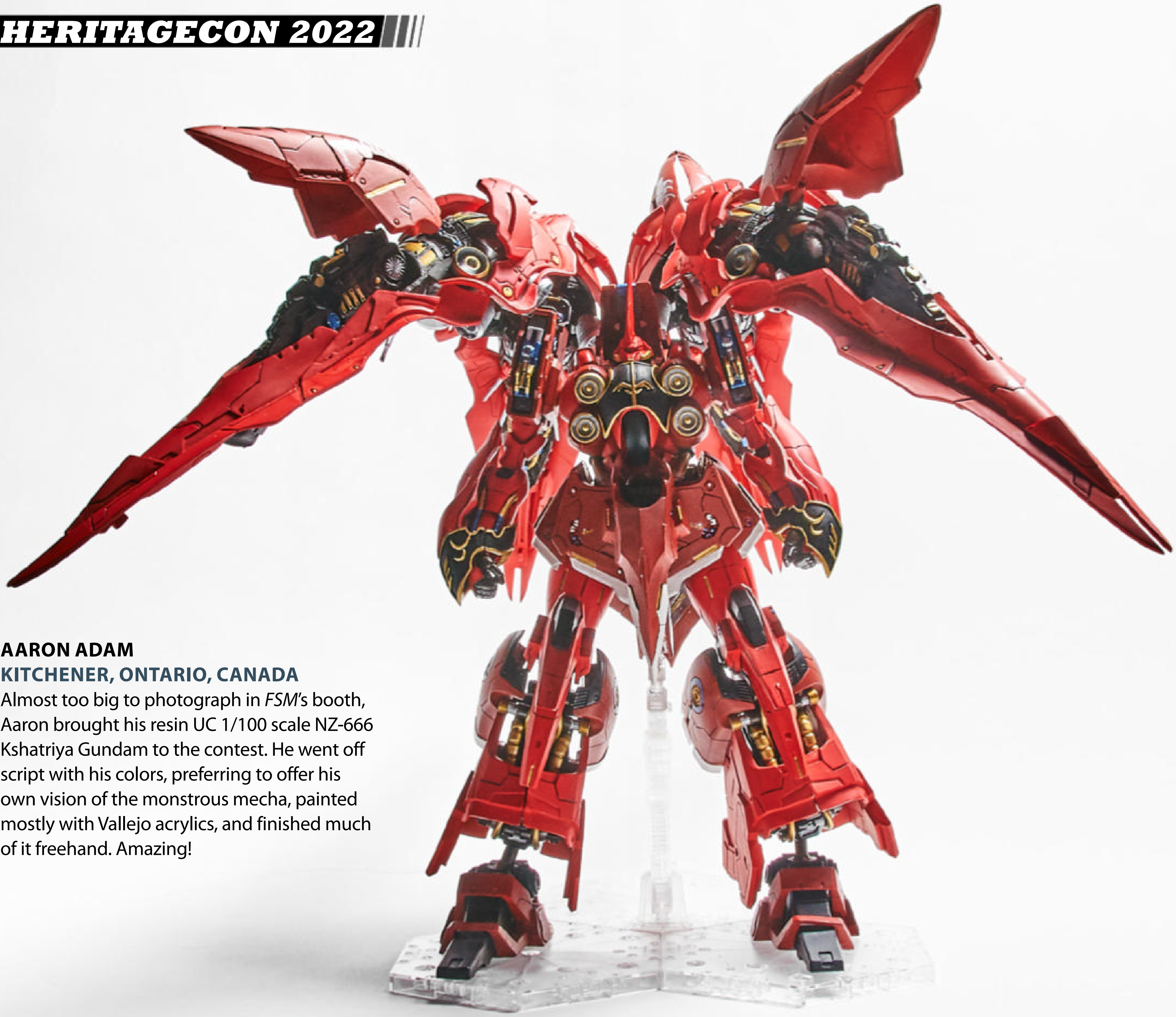
◀ **MAURIZIO LAUDISA**
TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA
Meng's 1/35 scale Renault FT-17 wears an eye-catching camouflage scheme thanks to Maurizio. Built out of the box, the pint-sized tank rests on a base made from an IKEA picture frame and was painted with Tamiya acrylics and weathered with artist oils and pigments.





▲ **LORENZO VITALI**
TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA
An AeroMaster resin pilot's seat dresses up the cockpit of Lorenzo's Tamiya 1/48 scale P-47D Thunderbolt *No Guts, No Glory*. He primed the fuselage with Airspeed Silver, mottled with MR Paint Dark Grey, and finished with Tamiya Bare Metal Silver. Flory washes provided some dirt.

▲ **ROBERT TETERUCK**
OAKVILLE, ONTARIO, CANADA
Real-space models are a rarity at model shows, but Robert made sure to bring his Hasegawa 1/200 scale Atlantis space shuttle and Hubble telescope. He made a custom decal to replicate the tiles on the orbiter's belly and detailed the telescope, payload bay, and doors with Bare-Metal Foil.



AARON ADAM

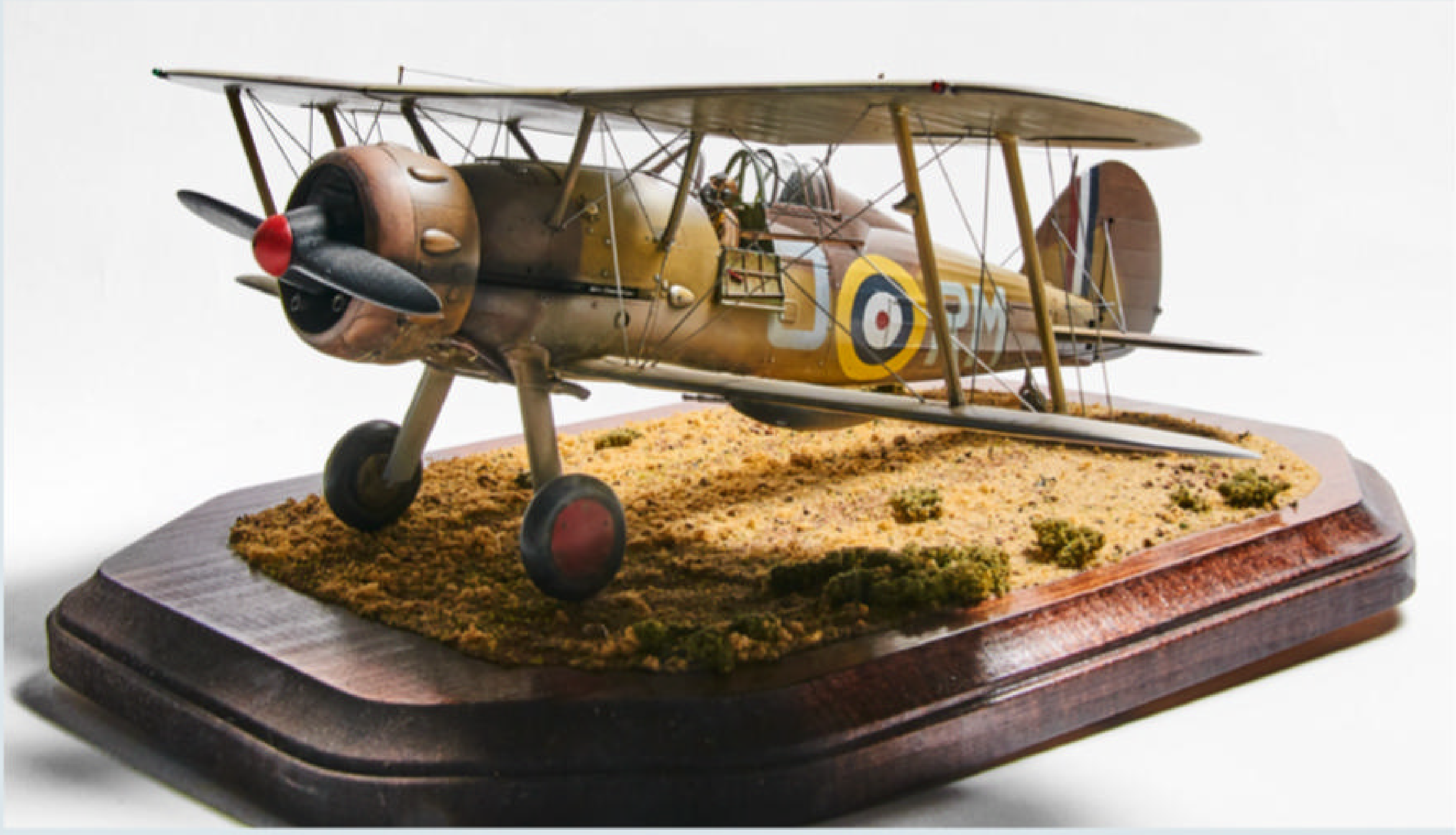
KITCHENER, ONTARIO, CANADA

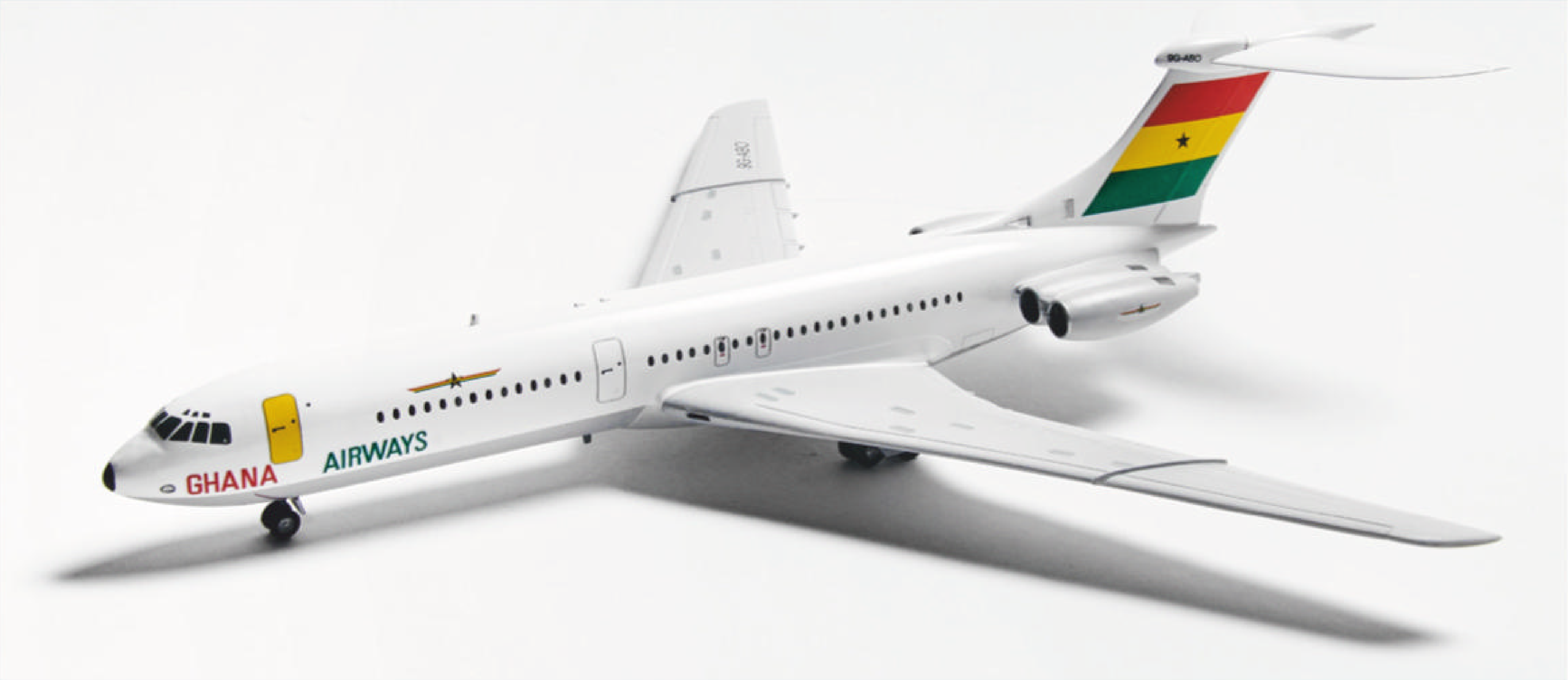
Almost too big to photograph in *FSM*'s booth, Aaron brought his resin UC 1/100 scale NZ-666 Kshatriya Gundam to the contest. He went off script with his colors, preferring to offer his own vision of the monstrous mecha, painted mostly with Vallejo acrylics, and finished much of it freehand. Amazing!

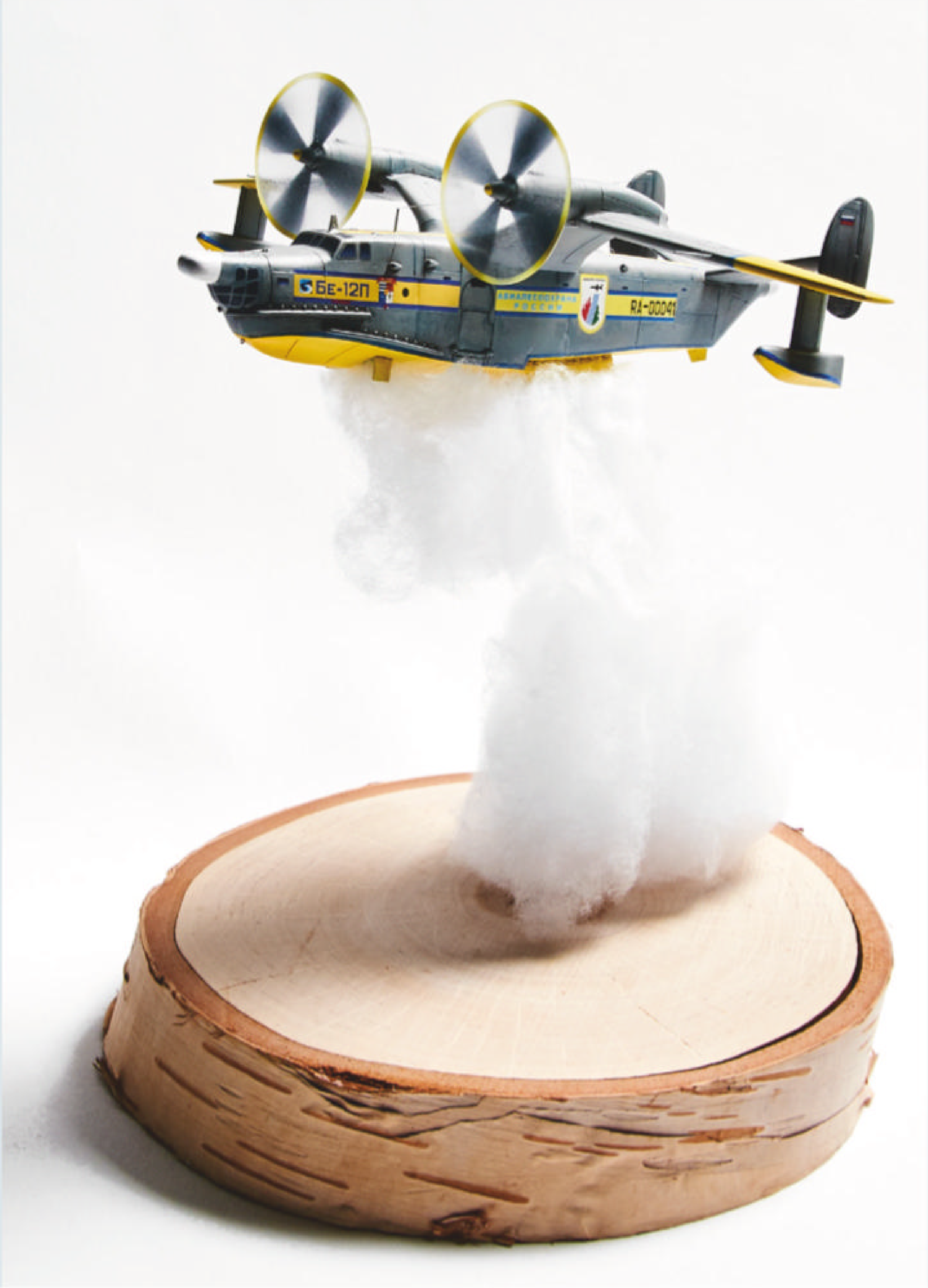
▶ **BOB BURGAR**

RICHMOND HILL, ONTARIO, CANADA

The ICM 1/32 scale Gloster Gladiator Mk.I builds like a dream, and Bob does the kit justice with his model marked for Royal Air Force No. 112 Squadron in Summit and Port Sudan in June 1940. He primed with Mr. Finishing Surface 1500 white, masked, and then went to work with Tamiya paints and an airbrush.







▲ CHRISTOPHE CLAVIÈRE
LAVAL, QUEBEC, CANADA
Christophe finished Airfix's 1/144 scale Vickers VC10 in Ghana Airways livery. He applied aftermarket decals over Tamiya White and Gray spray paint.

◀ ALEX GREKOV
MONTREAL, QUEBEC, CANADA
After paying $2 for a Masterkit 1/144 scale Beriev Be-12, Alex realized he got what he paid for. The aircraft required a ton of work, which included filling and correcting panel lines, cutting open the water-tank doors, replacing the engines with 3D-printed ones, and designing and printing new decals. He installed the model on a clear rod mounted to a birch slab and simulated water with polyester fiber.

NimCon 10

OSMAN ERDEN
ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS
Thirteen-year-old Osman brought this dramatic scene to the show. He modeled a Zvezda 1/35 scale T-80BV aiming its cannon at a little girl in Ukraine. He used Tamiya spray paints, artist oils, and enamels on the tank and figure.

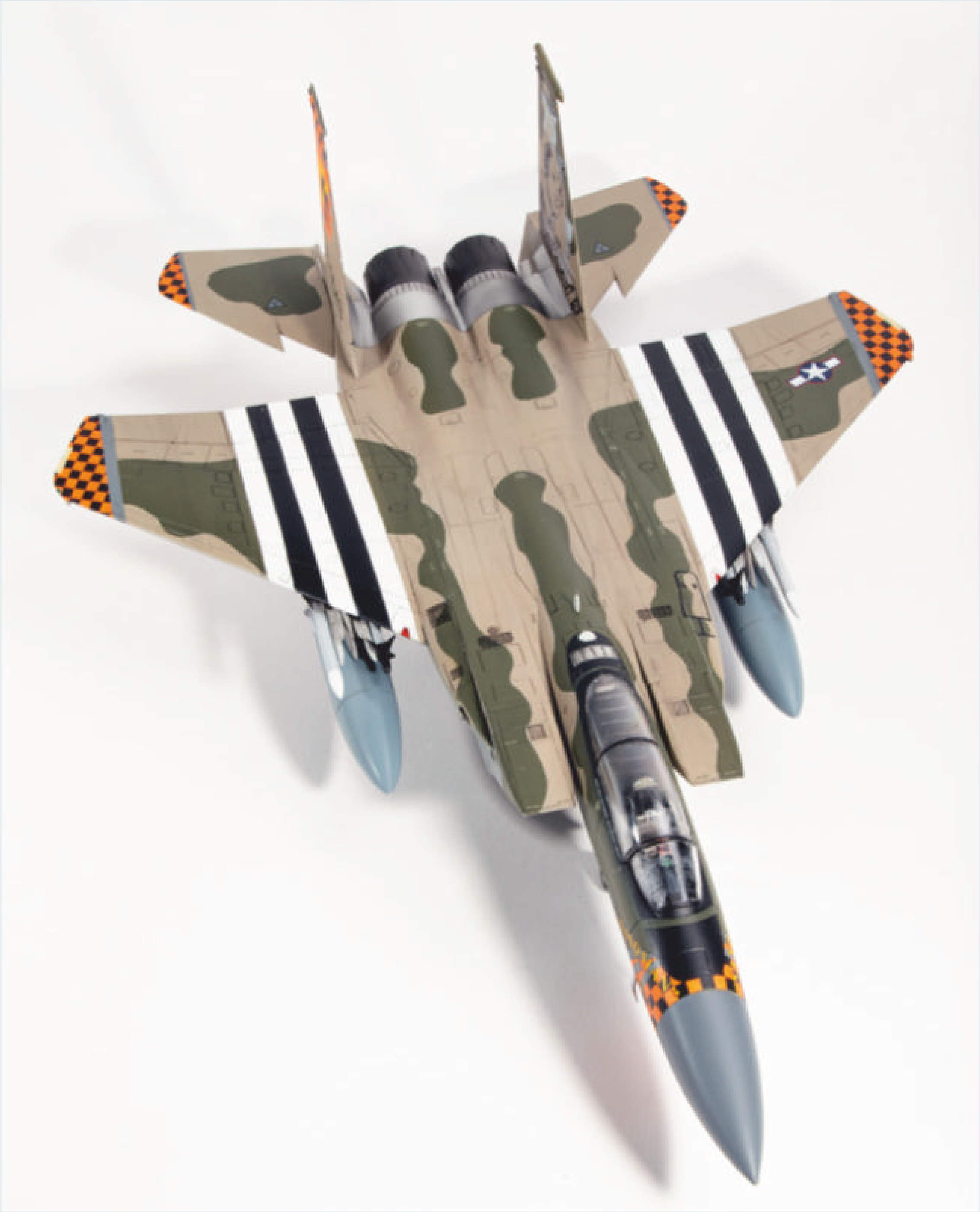
▶ **GEOFFREY WALLER**
TINLEY PARK, ILLINOIS
"These are Black Watch soldiers fighting a French lancer at the Battle of Waterloo," Geoffrey says. He airbrushed the horse and painted the kilts by hand. Acrylic colors were used throughout.

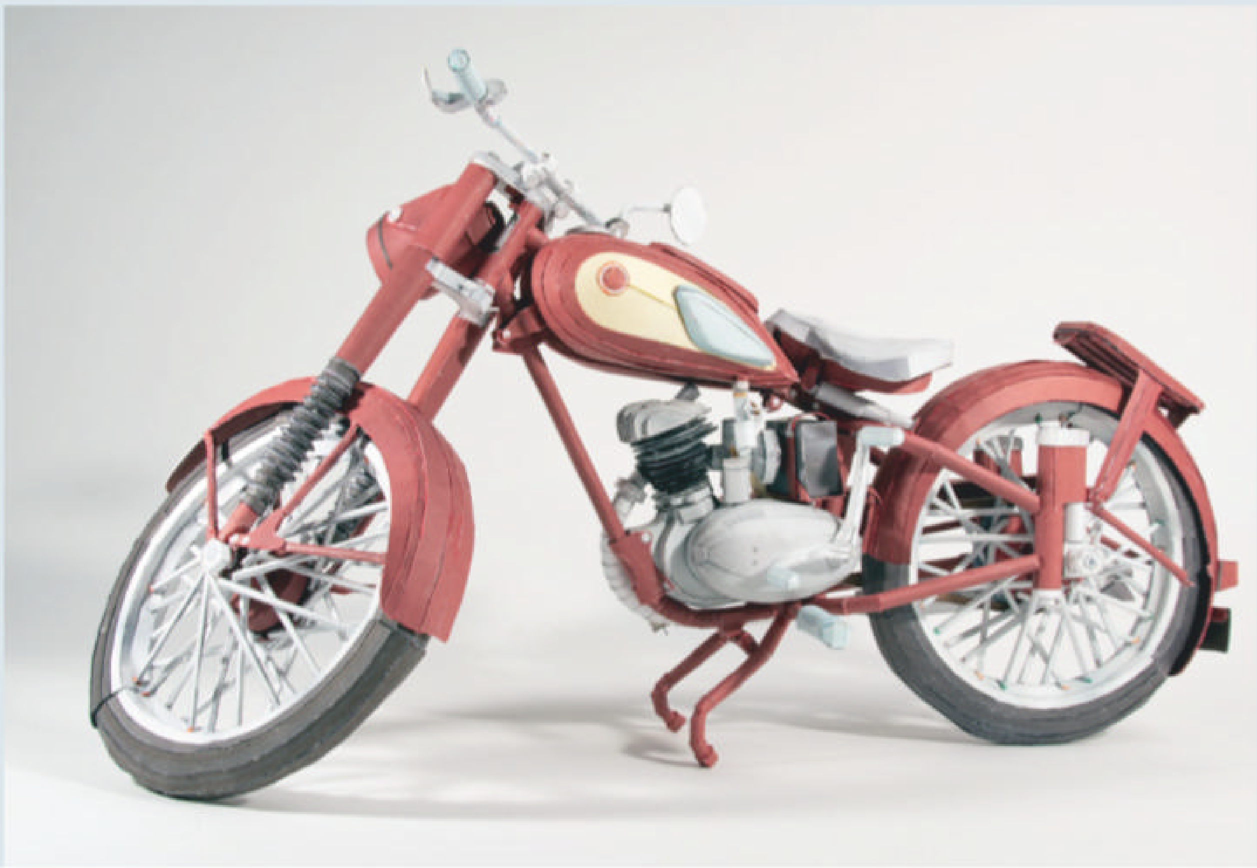
NimCon celebrated its 10th year in 2022. Here are some of the amazing models from the past year, from armored fighting vehicles to airplanes to cars and so much more, that lined the tables of this McHenry, Illinois show.

▼**ADAM HILLS**

AURORA, ILLINOIS

A fan of invasion stripes, Adam couldn't resist finishing his Tamiya 1/48 scale F-15C Eagle in the Heritage paint job celebrating the 75th anniversary of David R. Kingsley sacrificing his life to save those of his aircrew when their B-17 was shot down in battle. Adam improved the cockpit with a 3D-printed details from Quinta Studio. He drew masks and made them on a Silhouette Cameo 4 cutting machine for the scheme.

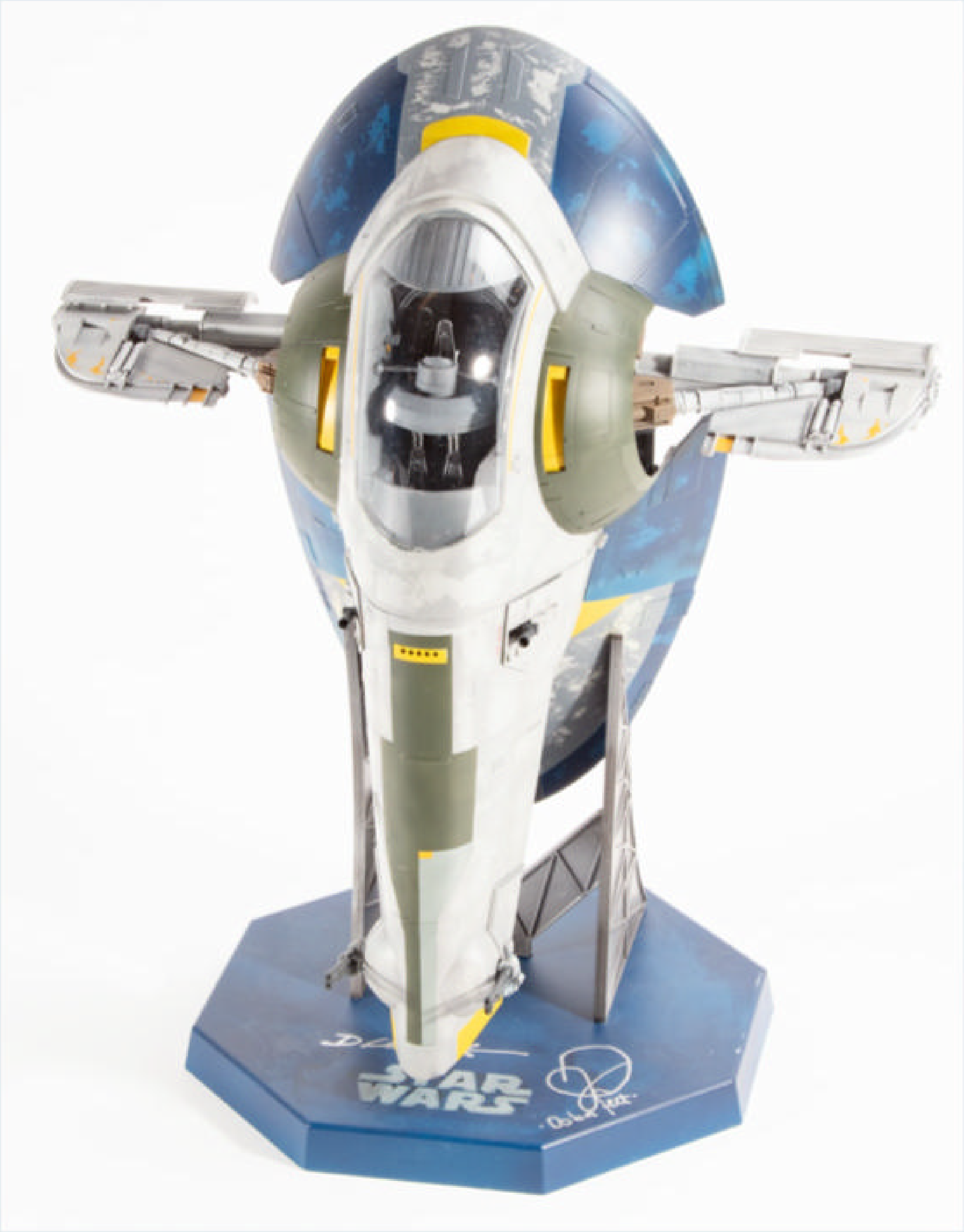


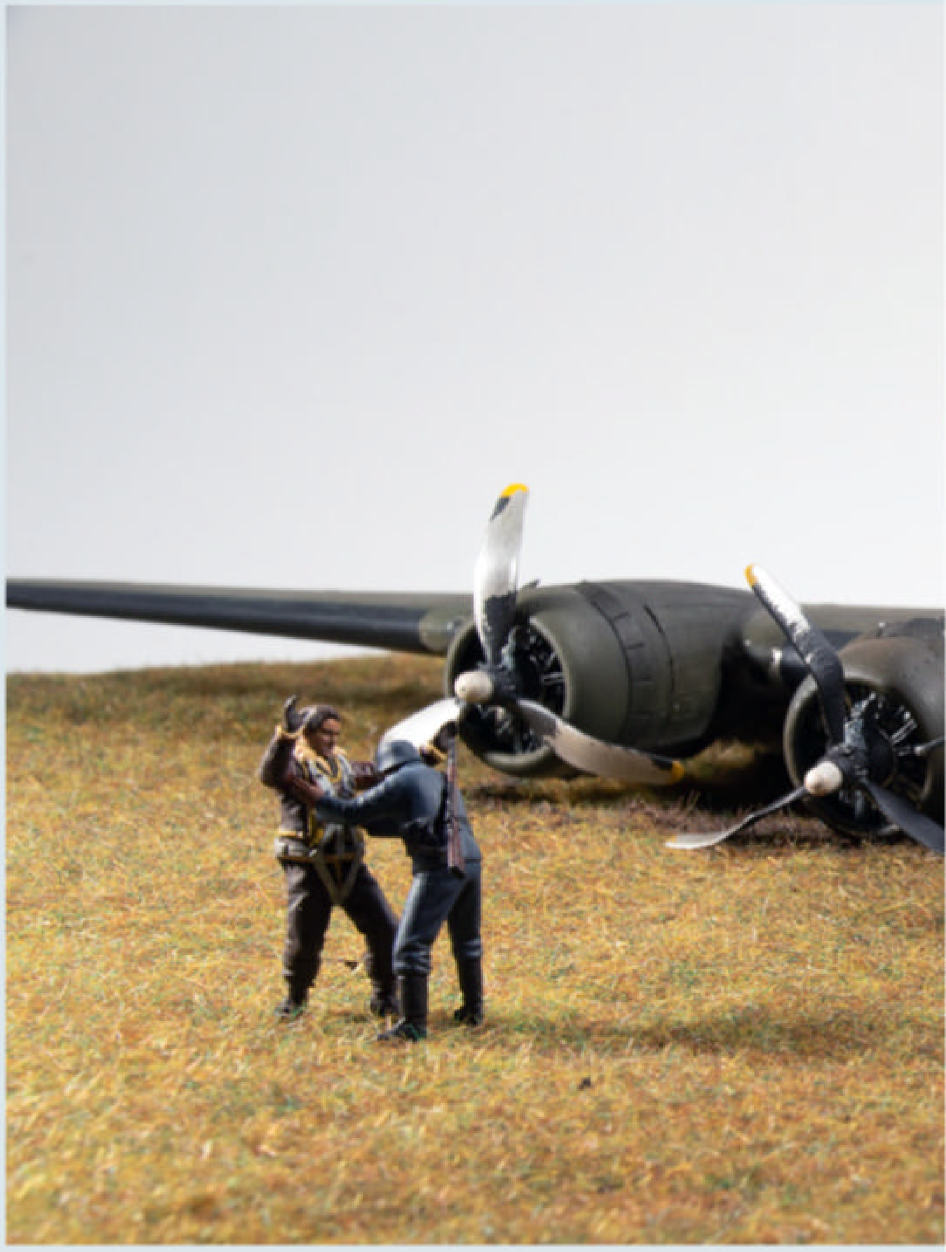


◀**JOHN CLANCY**

MENOMONEE FALLS, WISCONSIN

We're seeing more and more paper models appear at scale model events, and John brought his 1/4 scale Yamaha YA-1.

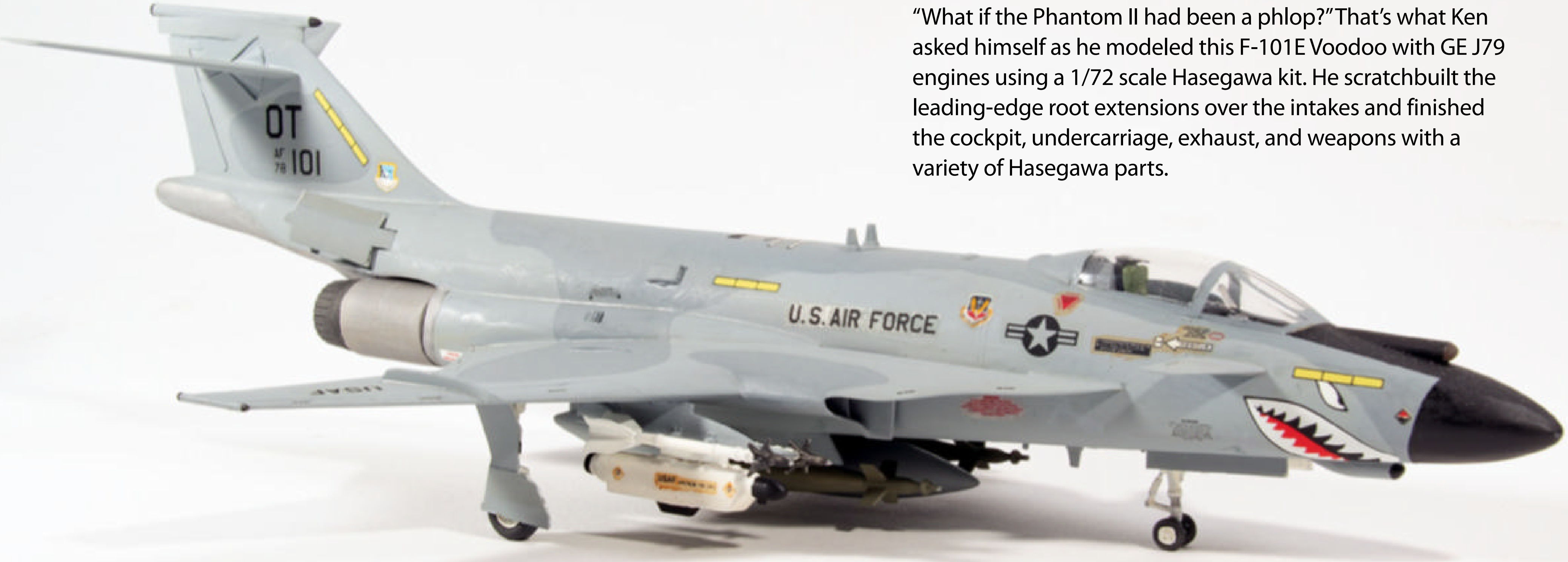


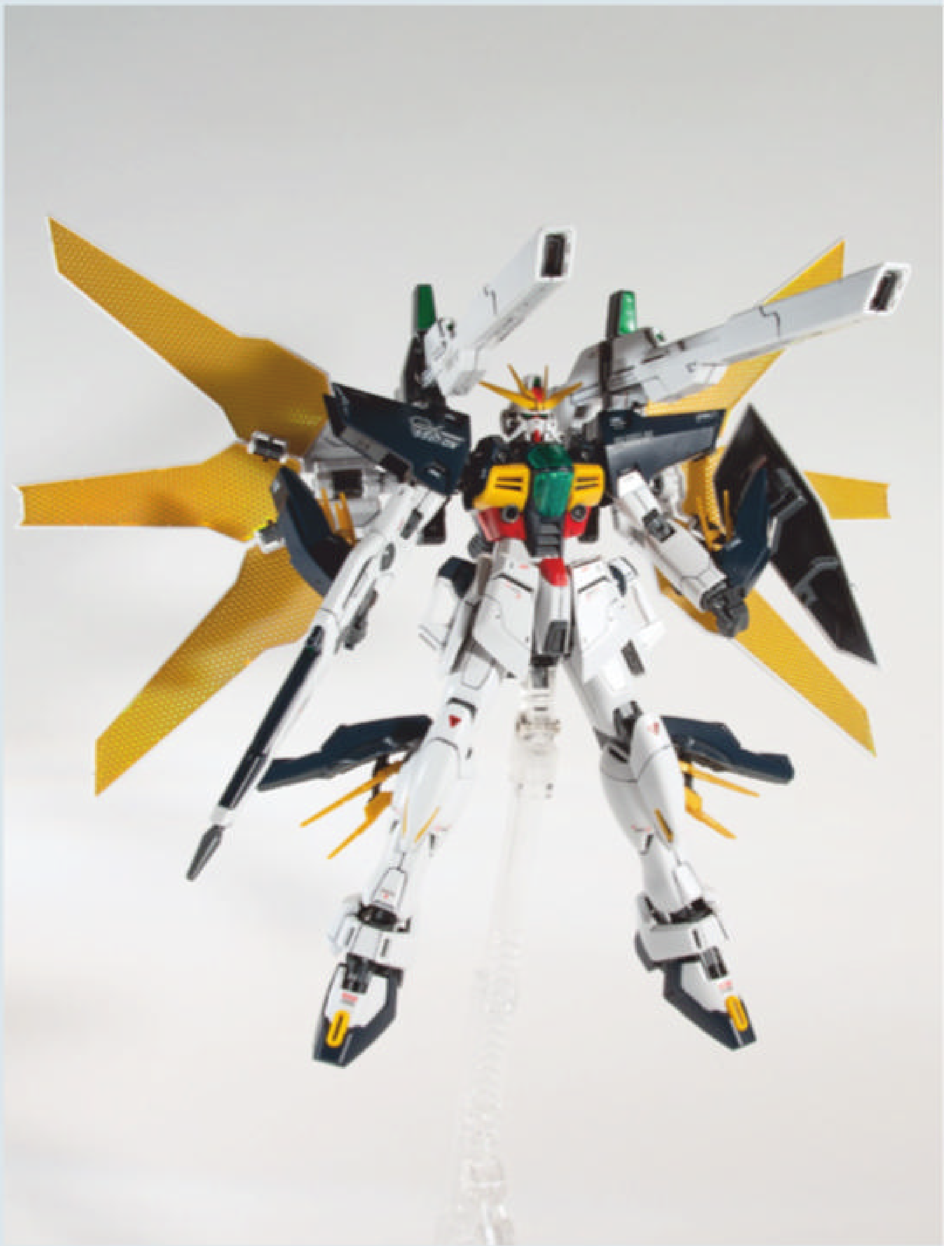


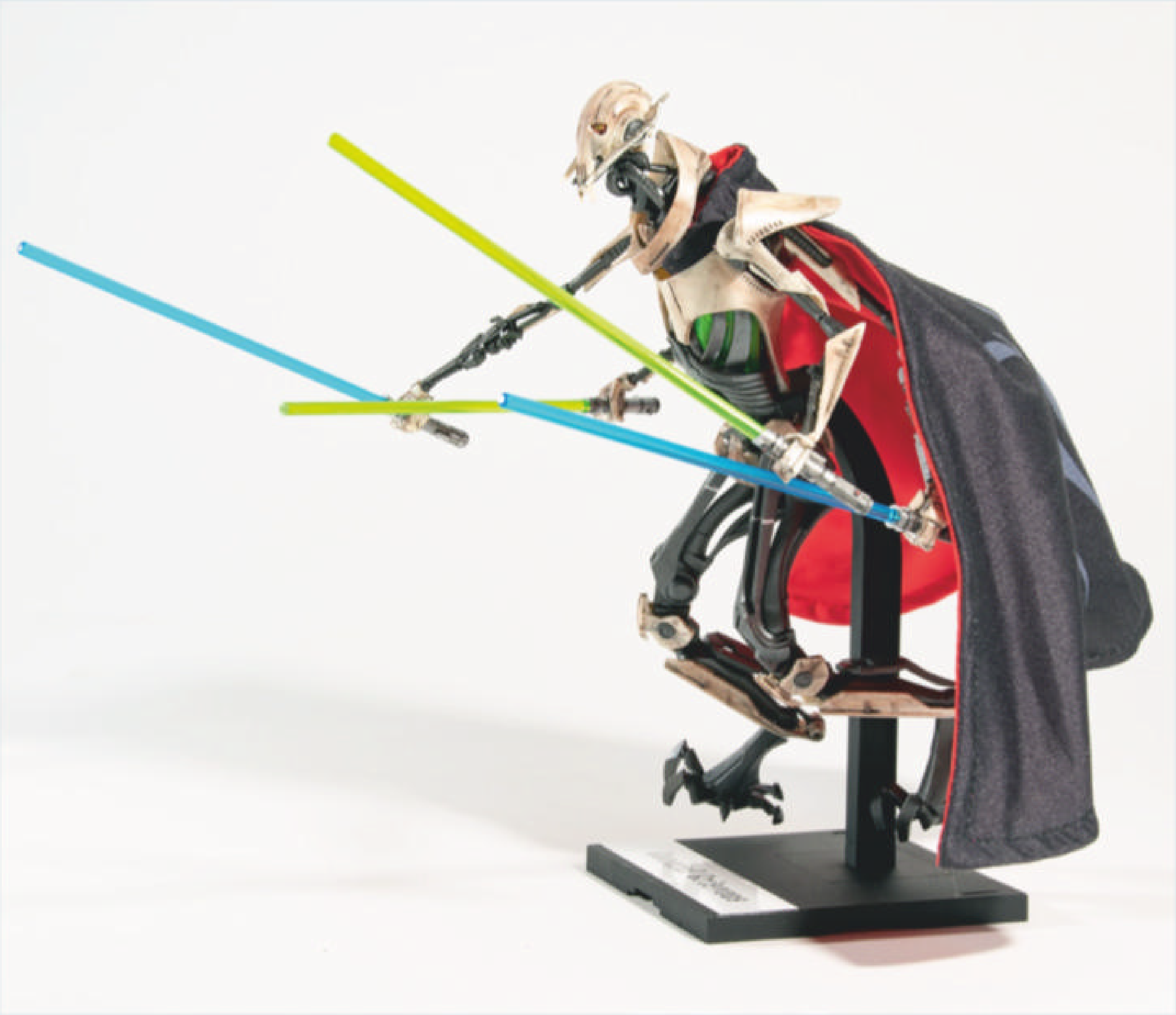
▲ **JAMES BINDER**
DARIEN, ILLINOIS
James finished a FineMolds 1/72 scale *Slave I* as Jango Fett's ship from *Star Wars Episode 2: Attack of the Clones*. He added fiber optics and LEDs to light the ship and painted it with Tamiya products. James chipped the finish using the hairspray method.

▲ **RICK GIANCARLO**
PLAINFIELD, ILLINOIS
Chaplain's Office, a B-17 of the 384th Bomber Group was shot down on Nov. 26, 1943. Pilot Charles Zitnik and bombardier Frank Pelley were taken prisoner by the Germans. Rick used a 1/48 scale Revell kit and covered the exterior with panels of aluminum foil. He painted the plane olive drab, weathered it with pastels.

KENNETH ERICKSON
GRANT PARK, ILLINOIS
"What if the Phantom II had been a phlop?" That's what Ken asked himself as he modeled this F-101E Voodoo with GE J79 engines using a 1/72 scale Hasegawa kit. He scratchbuilt the leading-edge root extensions over the intakes and finished the cockpit, undercarriage, exhaust, and weapons with a variety of Hasegawa parts.







▲ WILLIAM WALLACE

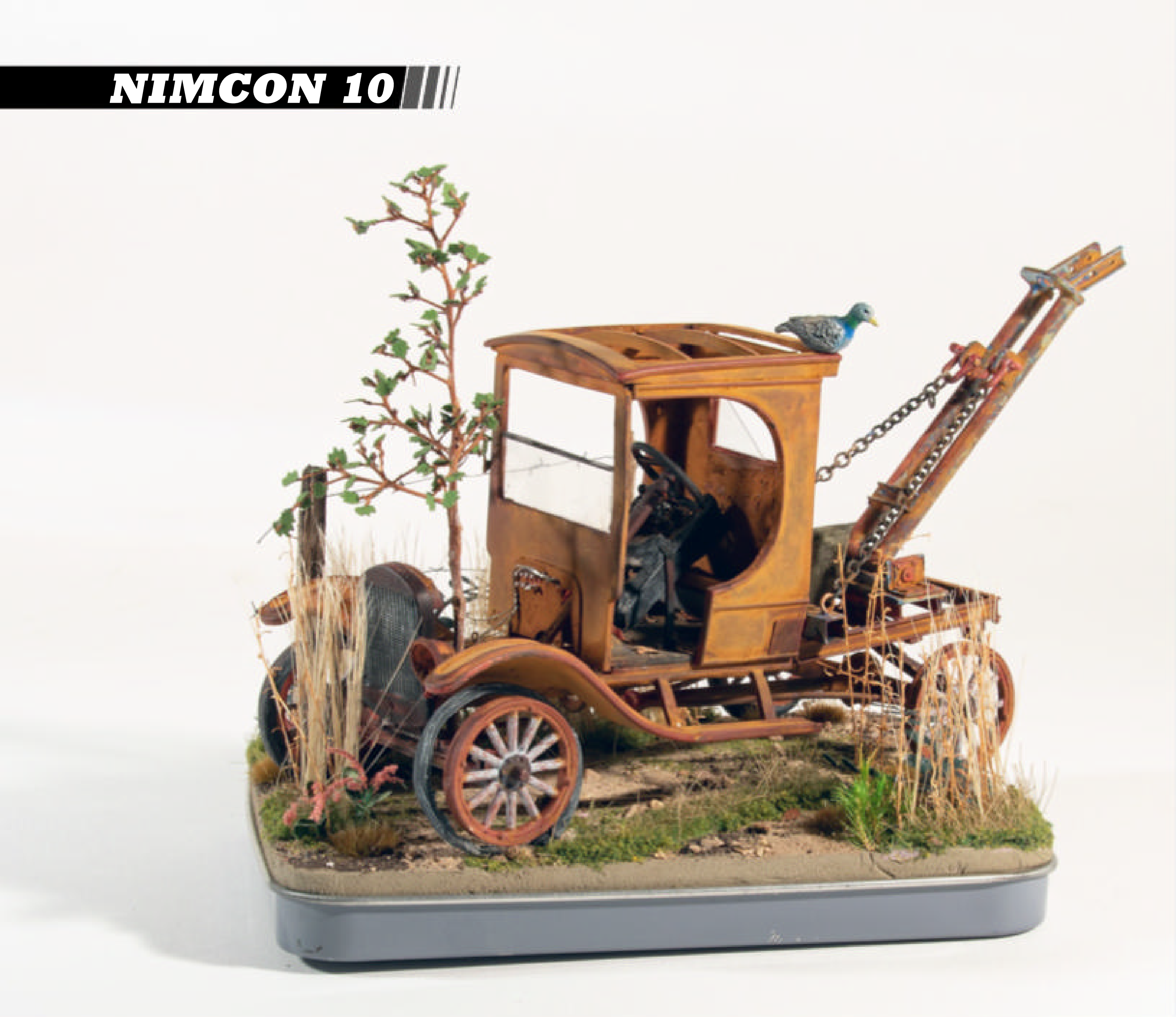
CARY, ILLINOIS

William built his Bandai 1/100 scale Gundam Double X out of the box, without paint or primer, relying on the colored plastic to do the work. He did darken panel lines with a fine-tipped black pen.

◀ FELIX GONZALES

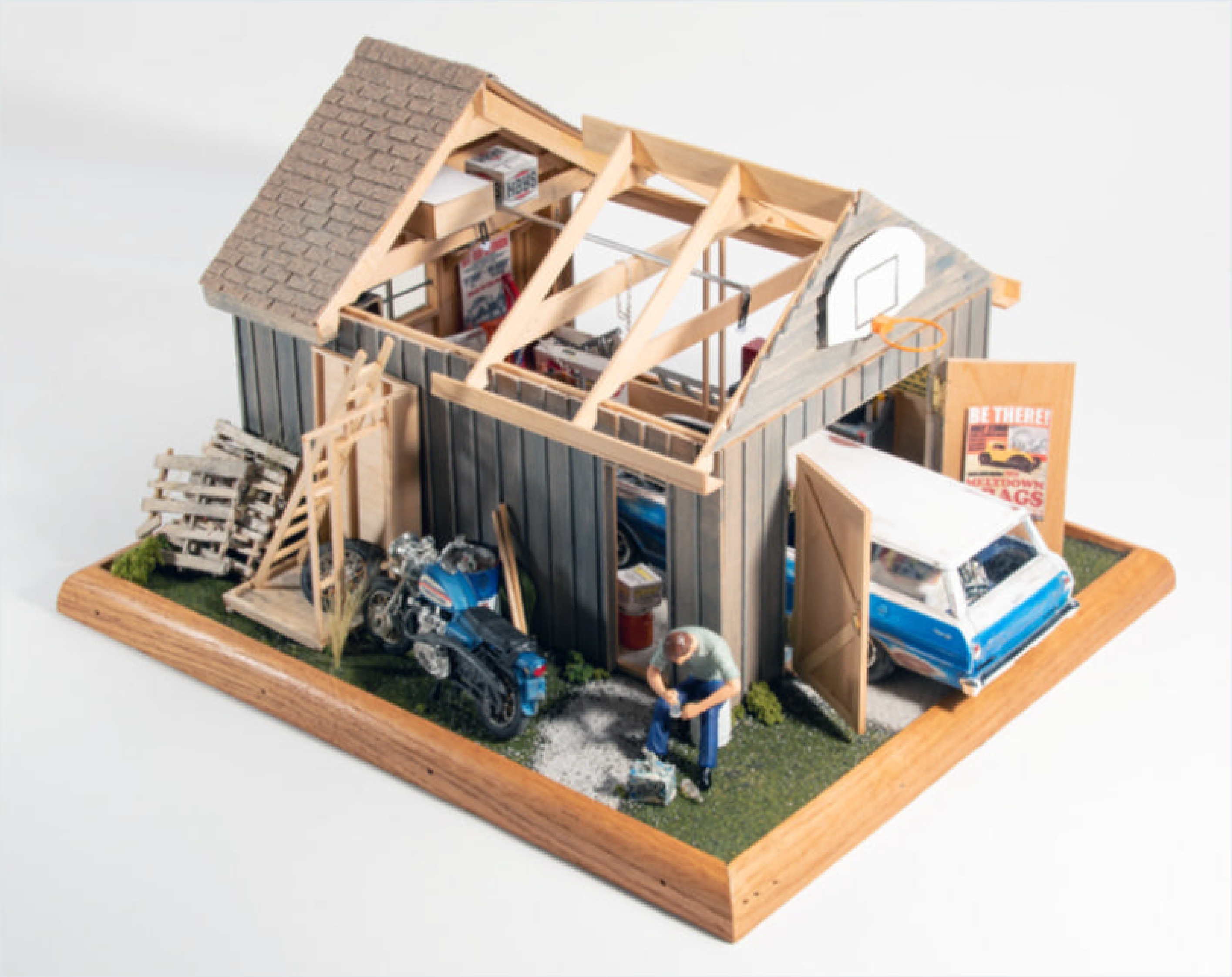
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Felix built a Bandai 1/12 scale *Star Wars* General Grievous. He painted with Tamiya and Vallejo colors, weathered the cyborg with pastels, and dressed him in an aftermarket cloth cape.



▲ GREGORY RWALDO
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN
Building a Revell 1/72 scale kit, Gregory modeled PT-109, changing the position of the depth charges to match his research. The front rails are 3D printed, and other details come from photo-etched metal and resin aftermarket sets. He used Tamiya primer and Mr. Color paints to finish everything.

▲ BOB CLIFT
MILTON, WISCONSIN
Bob had a vision for a vignette of an abandoned tow truck. To get there, he raided AMT kits for donor parts, scratchbuilt the hoist, fuel tank, and seat, and then based it on foam insulation. The dirt and stones are real, and Bob made all the grass and leaves.



▶ SCOTT ANDEEN
SCHAUMBERG, ILLINOIS
There's a lot packed away in Scott's classic single-car garage. He scratchbuilt the building from basswood and covered the roof with sandpaper shingles. Inside is an AMT 1/25 scale '63 Nova waiting to have an engine dropped in from a scratchbuilt hoist. Scott made the boxes from paper and wood and raided his spares for tools and other dressings to round out the scene. Well done!

rol Torpedo Boat
PT-109
LT JG John F. Kenned
109

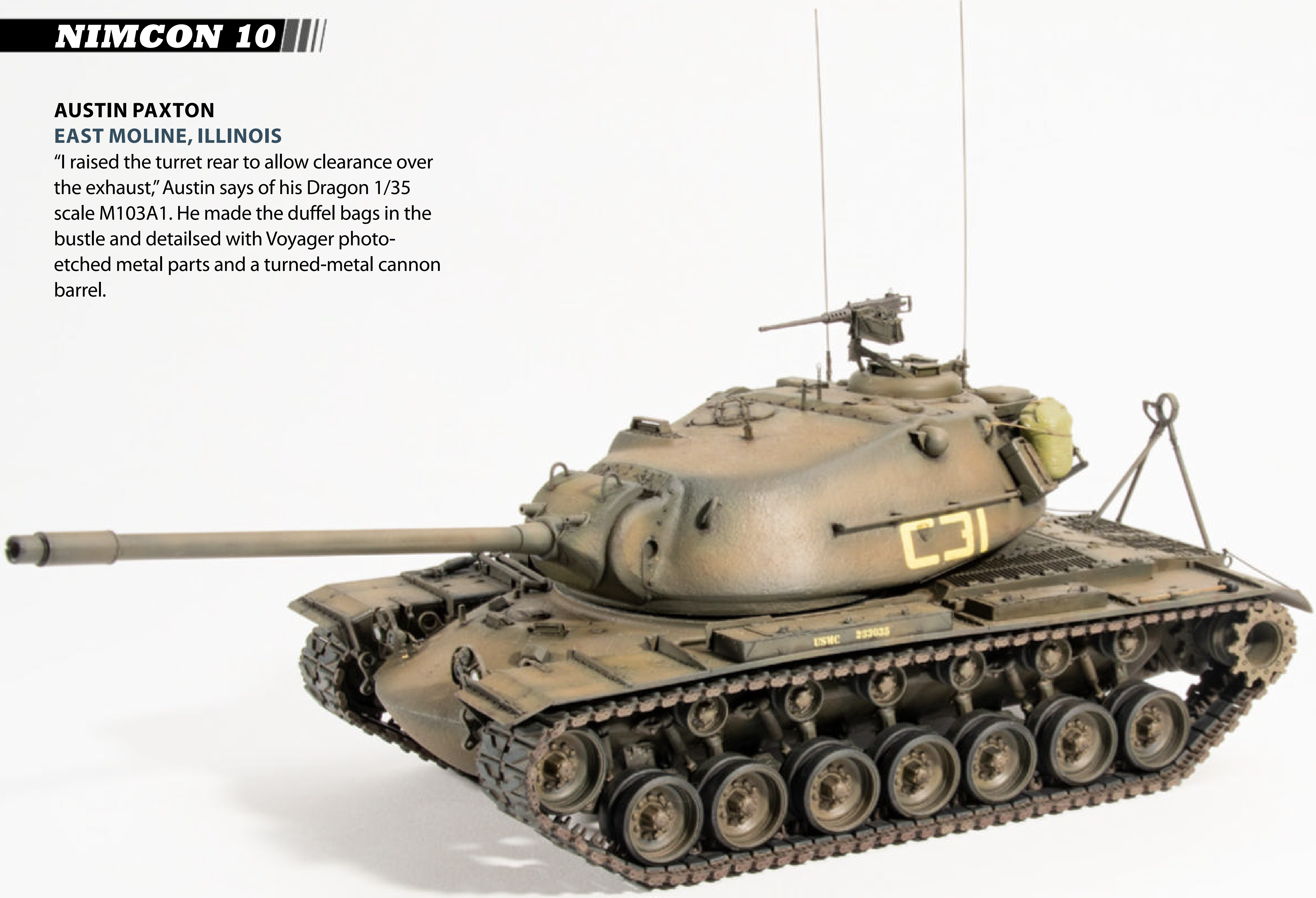
RONALD NEUENDORF
WAUKESHA, WISCONSIN
This honey of a hot rod from Ronald is a Monogram 1/25 scale 1930 Ford Model A phaeton. He added a distributor with wires, coil, fuel pump, and fuel lines. The brake booster came from another kit, and he ran brake lines. Ronald also upgraded the model with hose clamps, a six-sided die for the shifter, and seat belts, all under Dupli-Color auto paint.

▲ BOB SHEEHAN
ELMWOOD PARK, ILLINOIS
Bob painted a 1/8 scale Gamora from Marvel's *Guardians of the Galaxy* movie with acrylic and oil paints. He pre-shaded and then airbrushed the basic colors before detailing by hand.

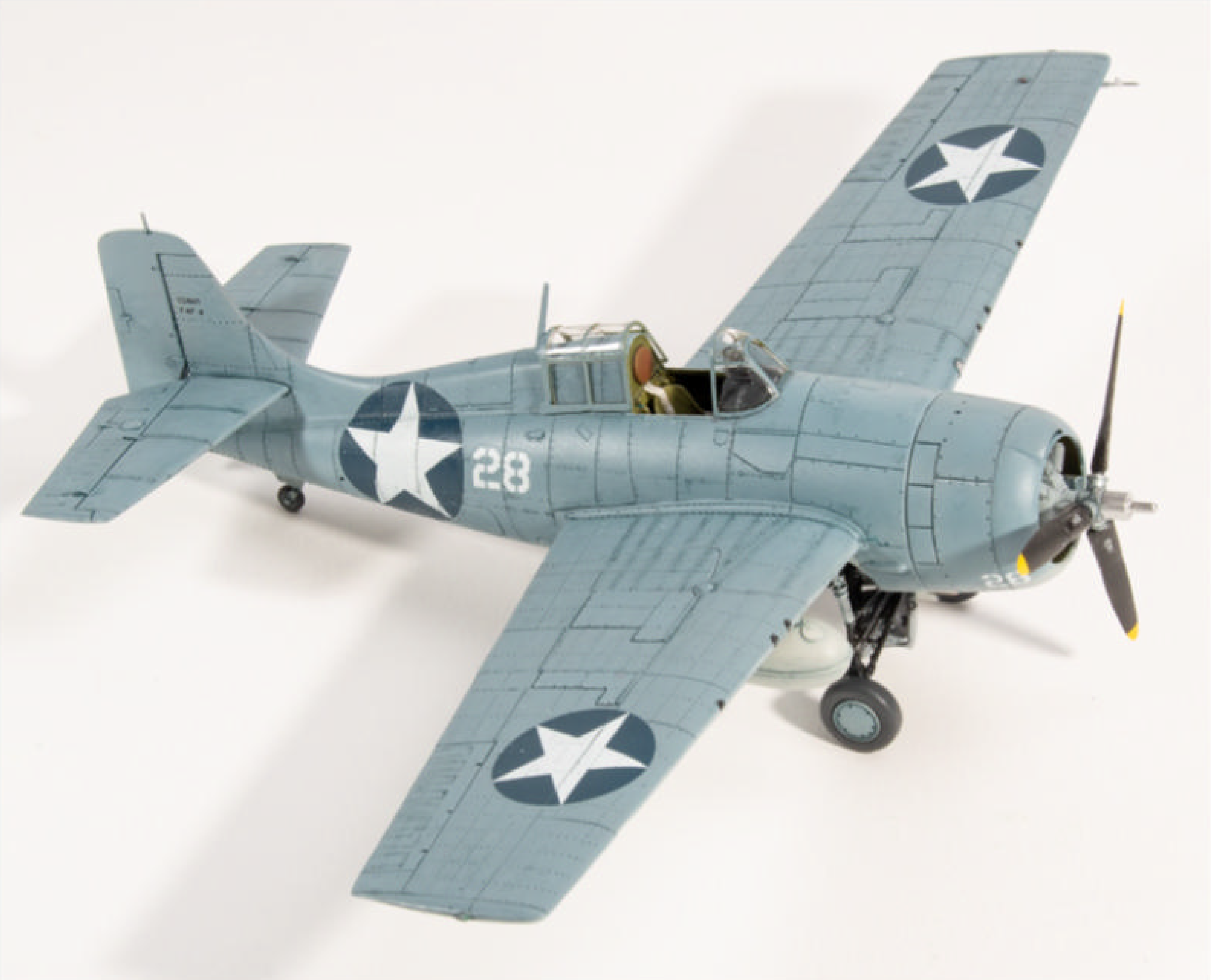
▼ MARK DANKO
VALPARAISO, INDIANA
Mark put Eduard photo-etched metal parts, Brassin wheels, UltraCast resin exhausts, and fairings, and LlfeLike decals into a Tamiya 1/48 scale P-51D Mustang to model *Contrary Mary*. He primed with Mr. Surfacer, painted with Mr. Color Silver, and weathered with inks and pastels.

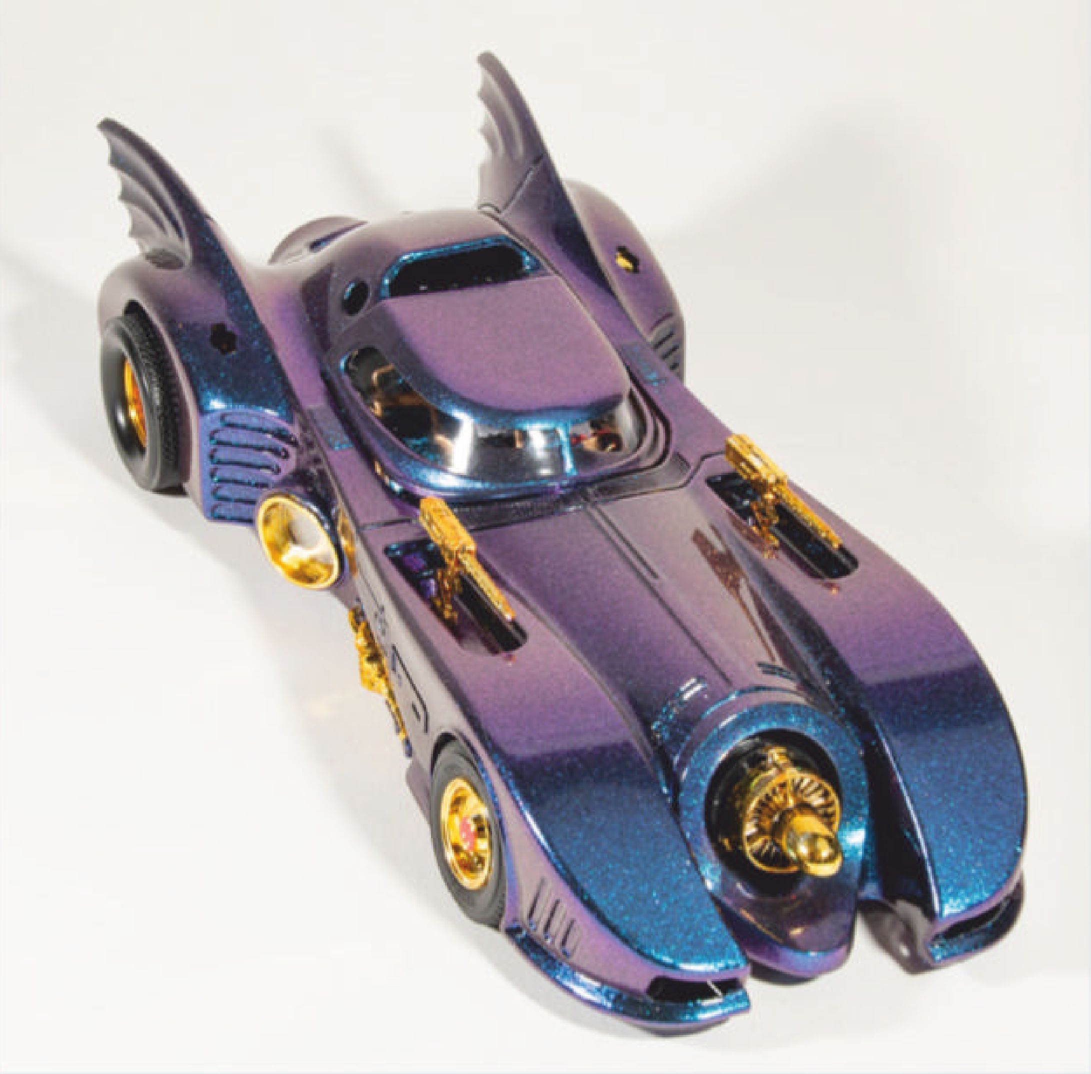
Contrary Mary
WZ
I
41425

AUSTIN PAXTON
EAST MOLINE, ILLINOIS
"I raised the turret rear to allow clearance over the exhaust," Austin says of his Dragon 1/35 scale M103A1. He made the duffel bags in the bustle and detailsed with Voyager photo-etched metal parts and a turned-metal cannon barrel.



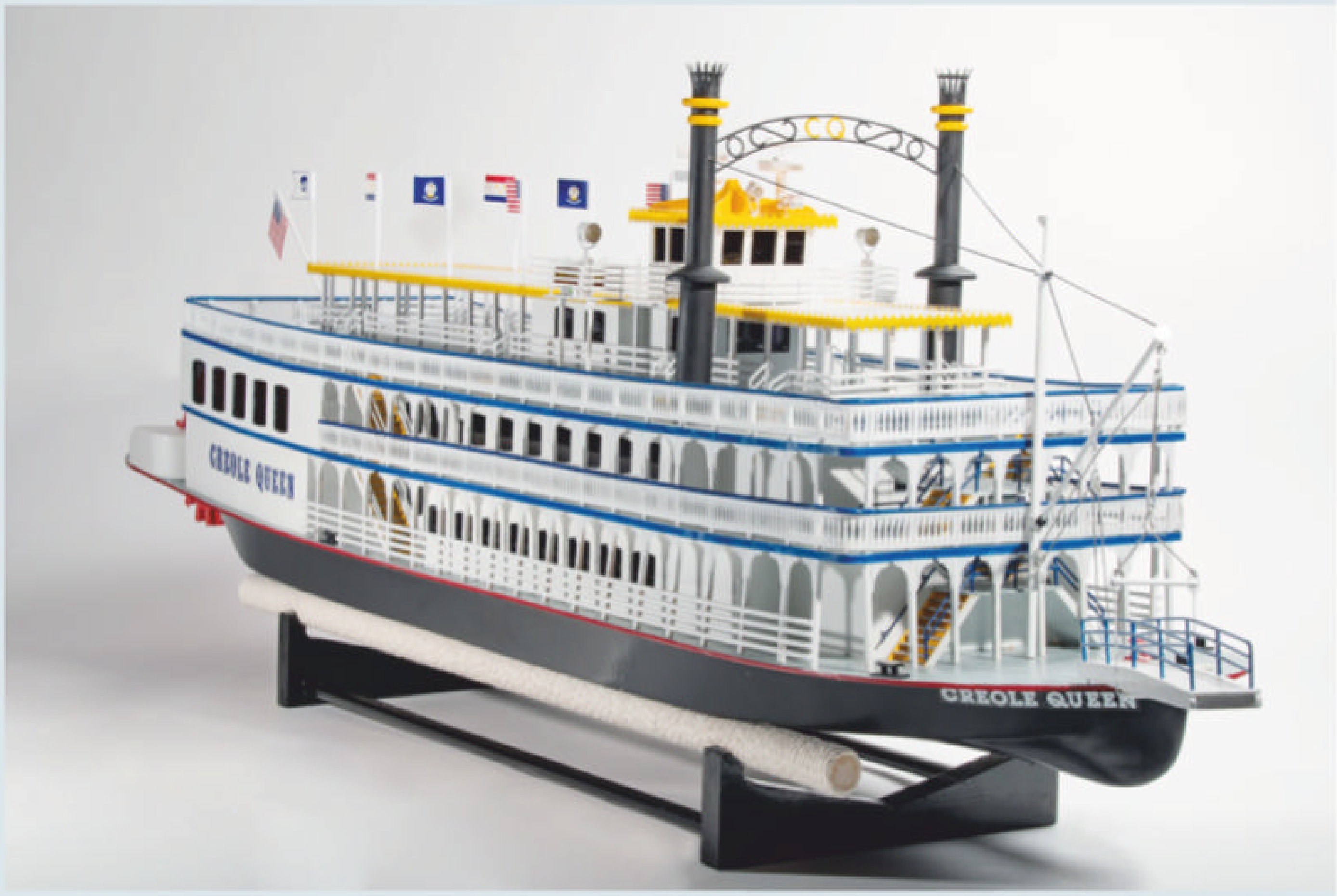
▶ ANDY KEYES
WEST BEND, WISCONSIN
Andy built this Tamiya 1/48 scale F4F Wildcat out of the box. He added seat belts made of tape to the cockpit. Not a fan of Tamiya decals, he persevered, pre- and post-shaded with Mr. Color paints and weathered with an acrylic sludge wash.

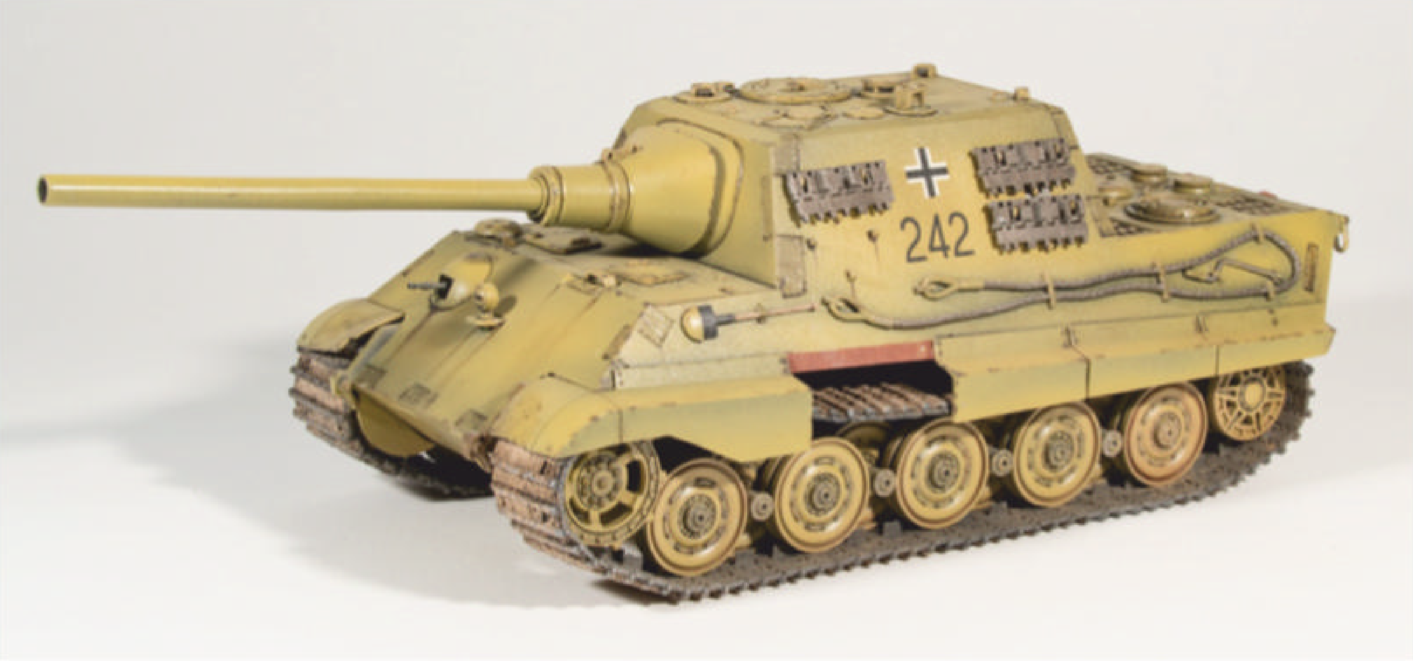




◀ **JOHN ANTON**
MIDLOTHIAN, ILLINOIS
Have you ever wondered what Batman's car would look like if Bruce Wayne had a sense of style? John answers with his 'lux 1/25 scale Batmobile, dripping in high-gloss color-shift paint and boasting gold-plated wheels, machine guns, and trim. We don't care about practicality, just that it looks cool.

▶ **DAVID SCHULTZ**
ELGIN, ILLINOIS
The 1/48 scale *Creole Queen* steamed in under David's command. Measuring 48 inches long at the keel with a 10-inch beam, the model has custom searchlights, rails, radar units, a horn, a power winch, funnel tops, and stairs, all made from a combination of brass, wood, and cardstock. The base features ¾-inch dowels wrapped in rope.

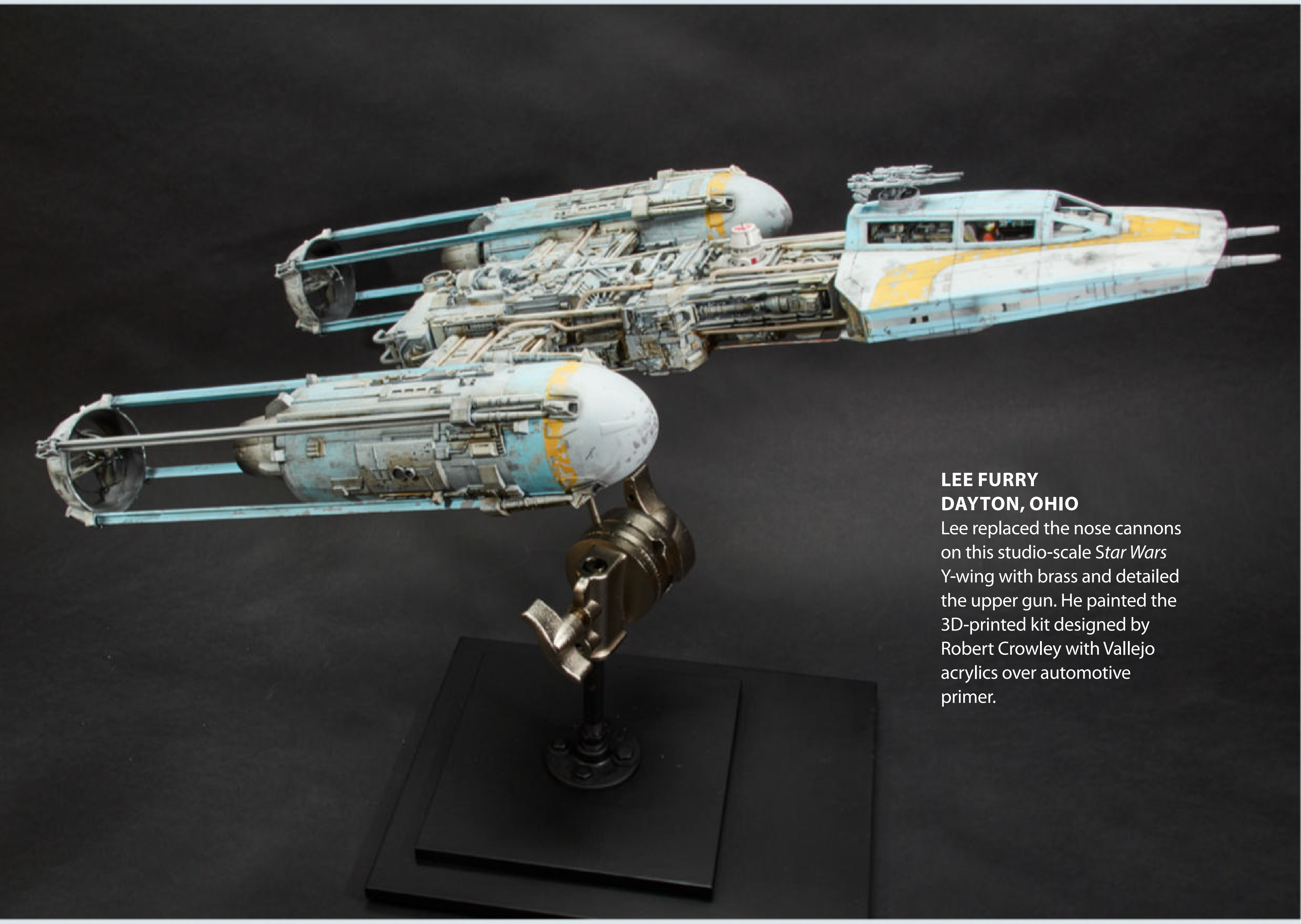




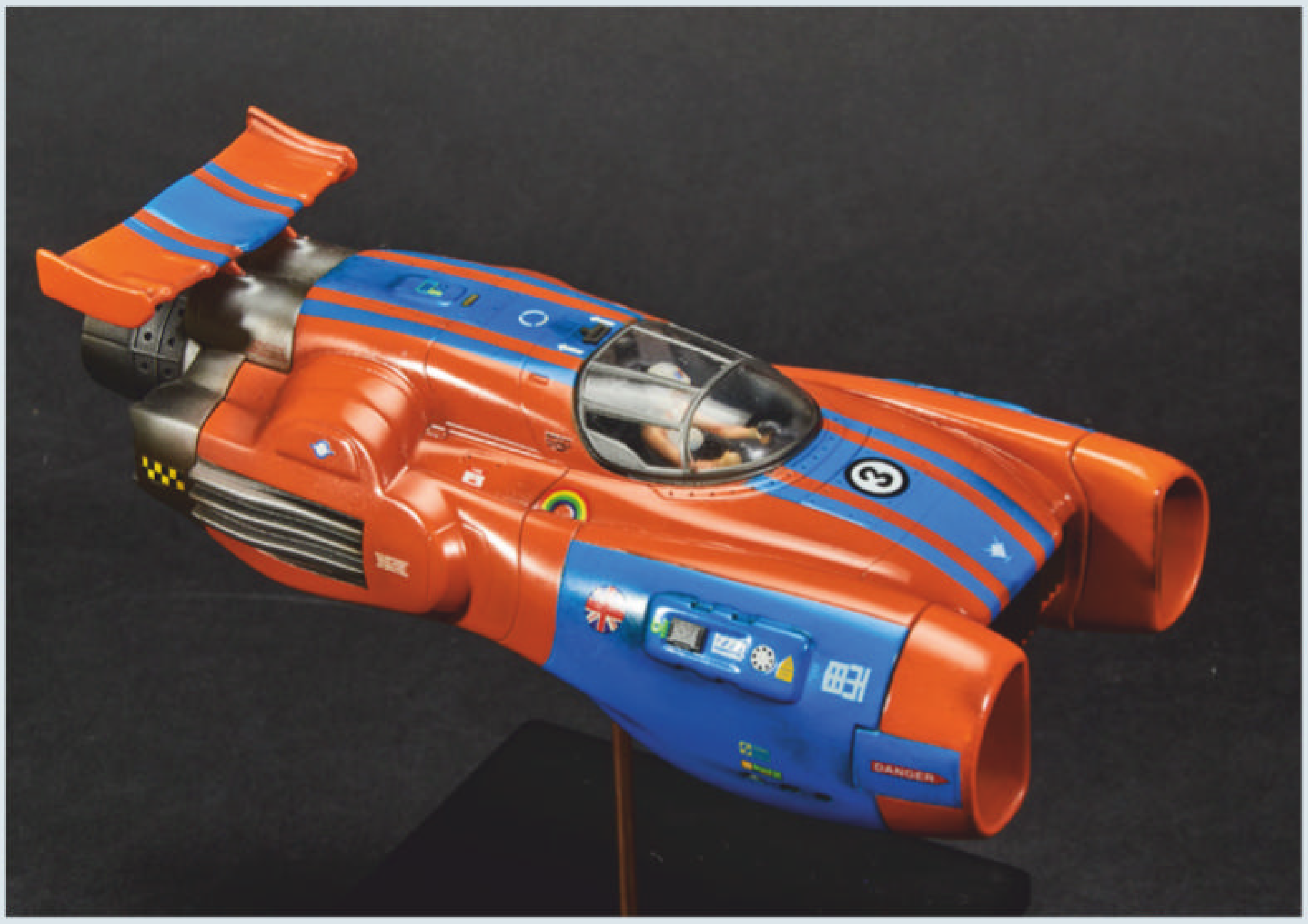
◀ **MARK MILLER**
SUN PRAIRIE, WISCONSIN
Mark replaced the tracks on his Tamiya 1/35 scale Jagdtiger with Scale Colors' 3D-printed workable tank tracks and made his own vision blocks, too. Again, turning to Scale Colors, he airbrushed primer, modulated with white and black before base-coating.

WonderFest USA 2022

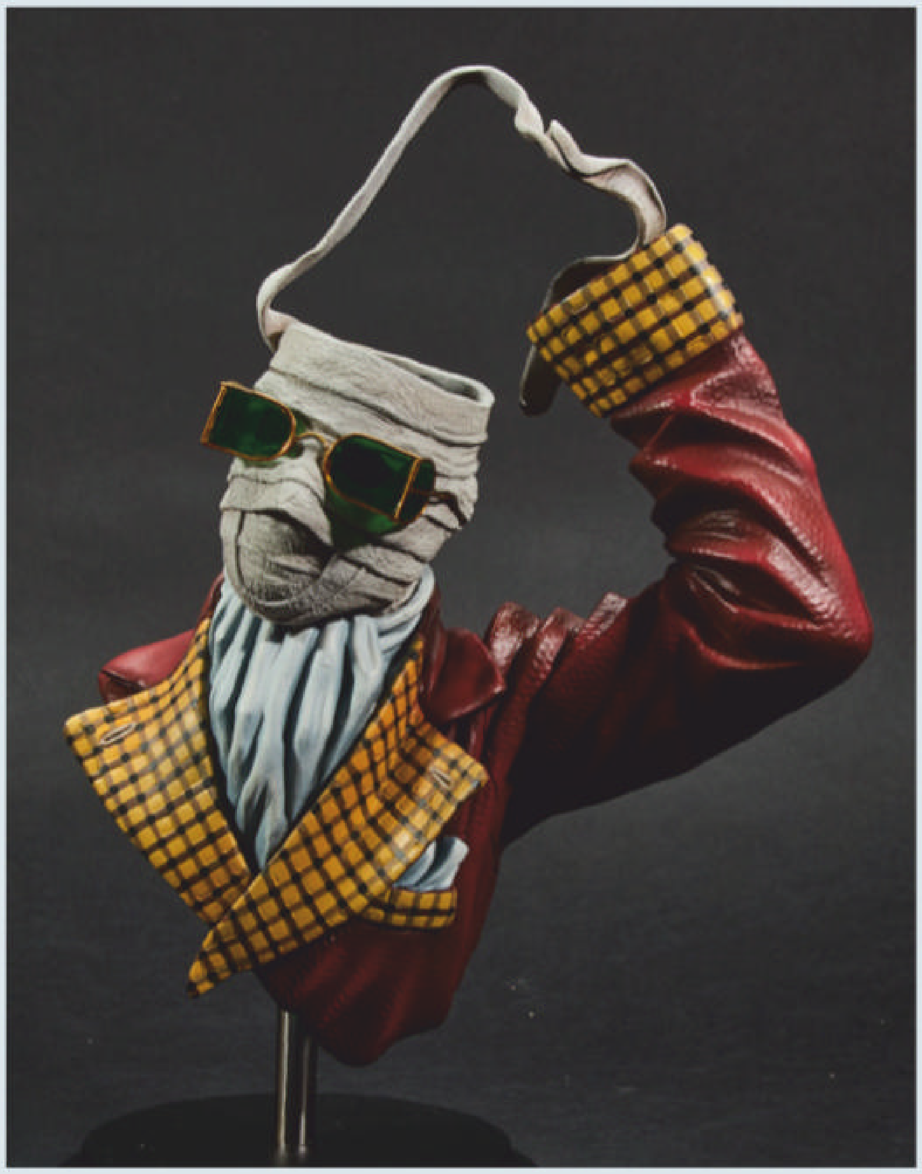
If you like fantastic modeling, you need to make plans to visit WonderFest USA, because the focus of the show and the Amazing Model Contest that is part of it is all about fantasy, sci-fi, and horror figures and vehicles. Held in Louisville, Kentucky, it attracts fans and builders of all kinds of genre TV, movies, and comics. The 2023 event is slated for June 10-11, and you can learn more about it at Wonderfest.com

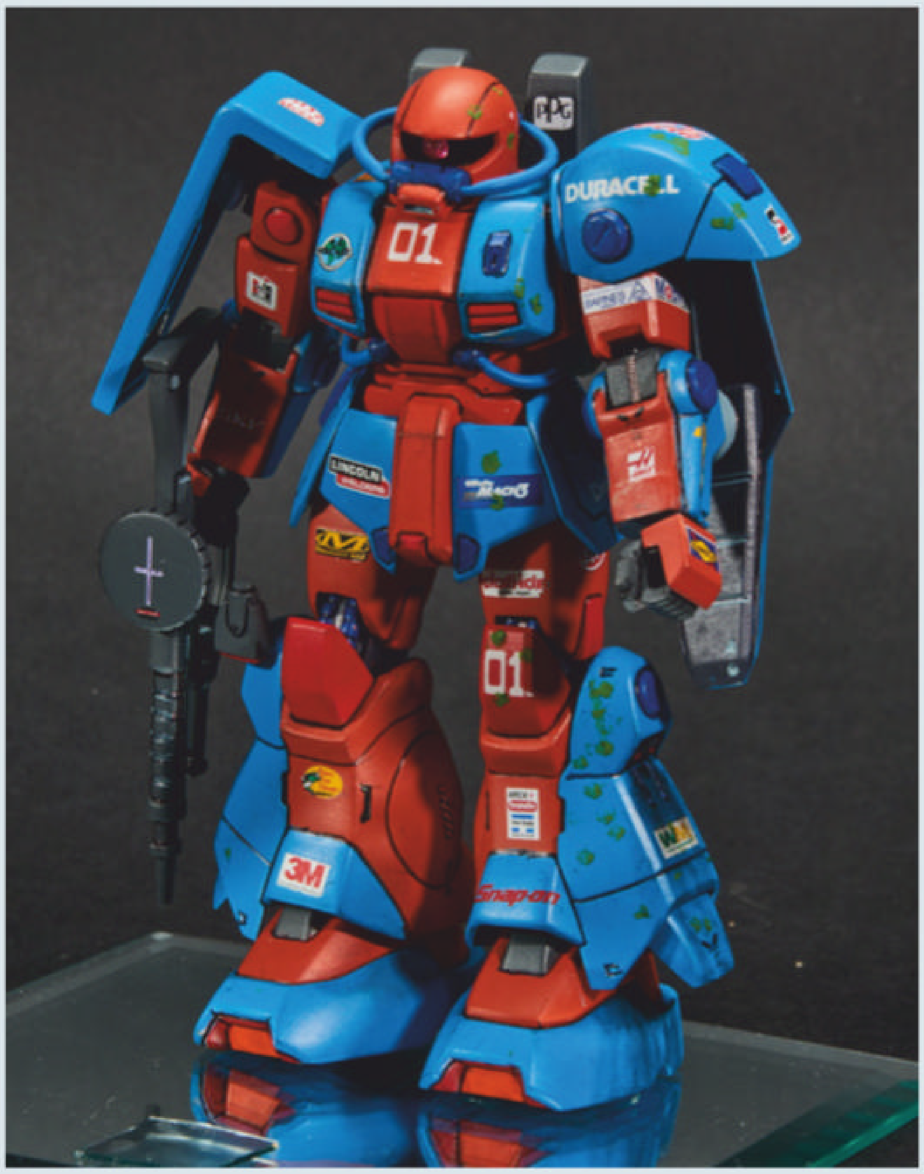


LEE FURRY
DAYTON, OHIO
Lee replaced the nose cannons on this studio-scale *Star Wars* Y-wing with brass and detailed the upper gun. He painted the 3D-printed kit designed by Robert Crowley with Vallejo acrylics over automotive primer.



◀ ROB McFARLANE
EL SEGUNDO, CALIFORNIA
Choosing a scheme inspired by the classic Gulf Racing team livery, Rob painted ALB-LAB's 1/35 scale Markov Antigravity Racer with Tamiya lacquers and artist oils.



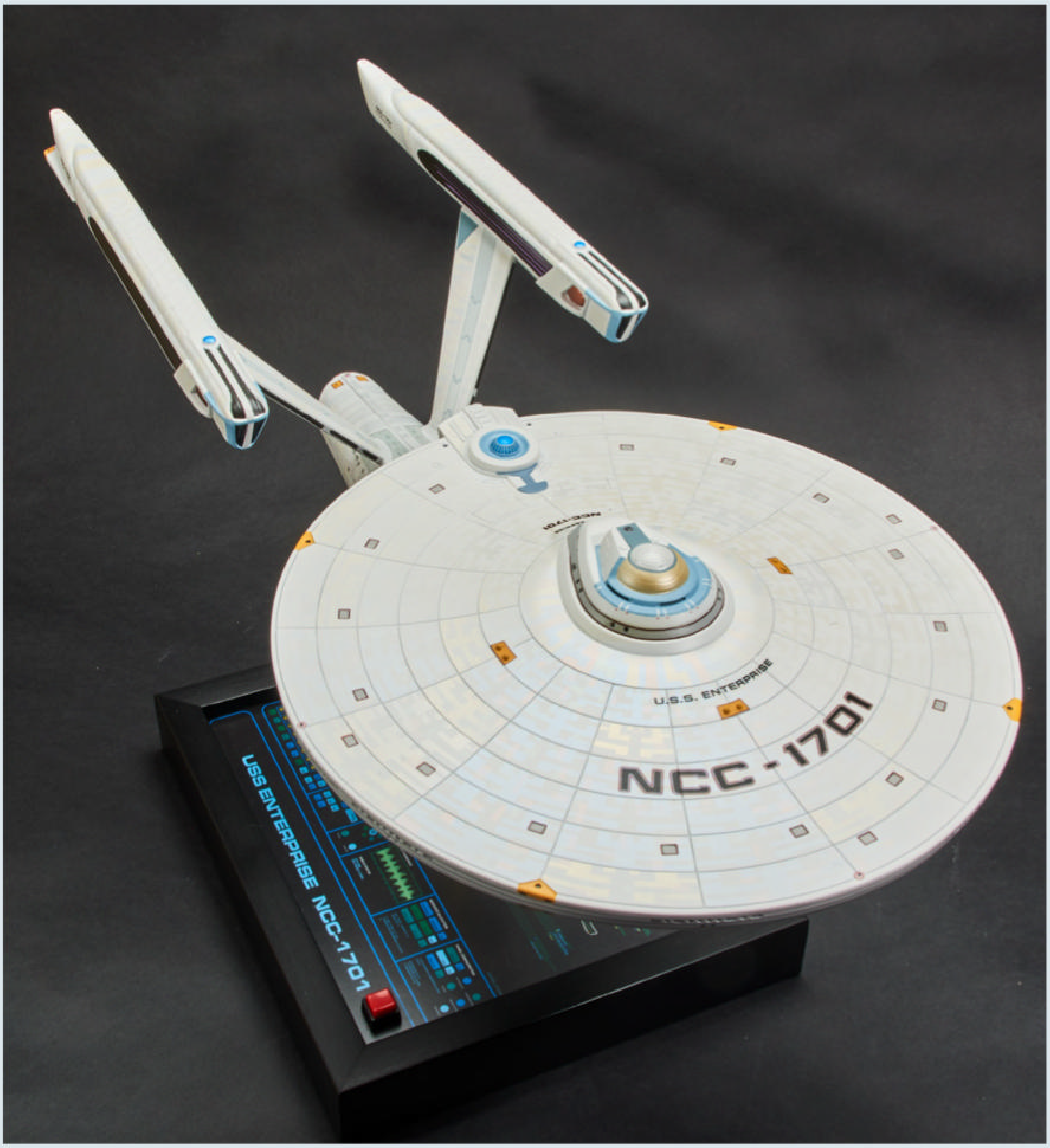


▲ ERIC GONZALEZ
HIALEAH, FLORIDA
To improve GeoMetric's 1/4 scale bust of the Invisible Man, Eric hollowed out his head and removed the molded-on glasses to make way for scratchbuilt replacements. He painted the depiction of the Claude Rains character with Tamiya, Testors Model Master, and Vallejo acrylics. "I'm just glad his head didn't explode while I was Dremeling it out!" Eric says.

▲ ALEX SILVIA
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS
Alex added parts from other kits to a Bandai 1/144 scale RMS-116H and painted the Gundam mobile suit with Tamiya spray-can lacquers and Vallejo acrylics. He says he painted it in NASCAR colors to show a mobile suit modified for paintball games.

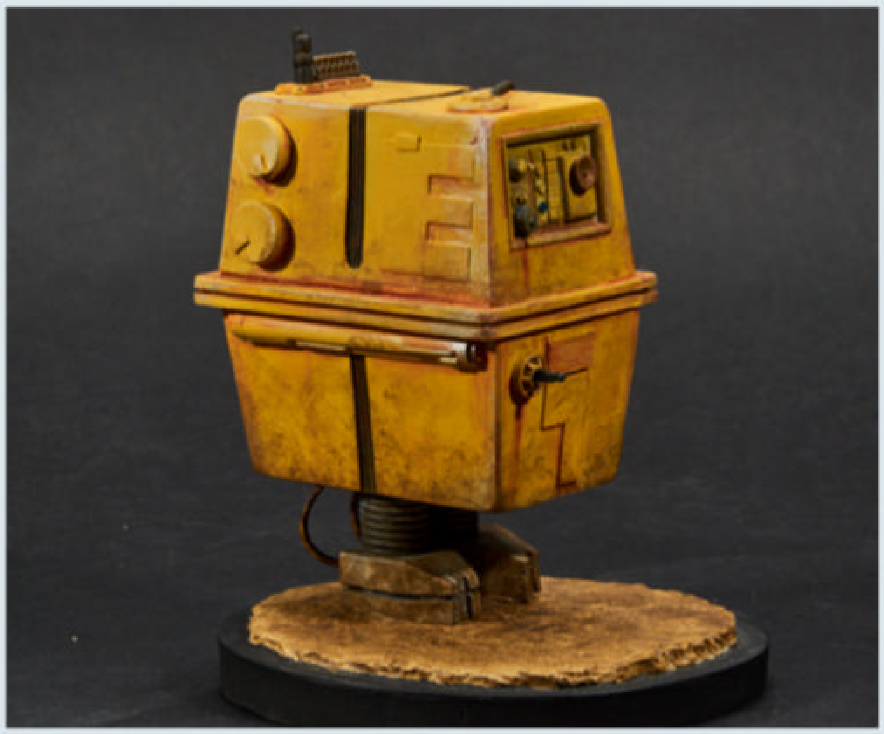
▶ JOE SCHMIDT
HOLLAND, OHIO

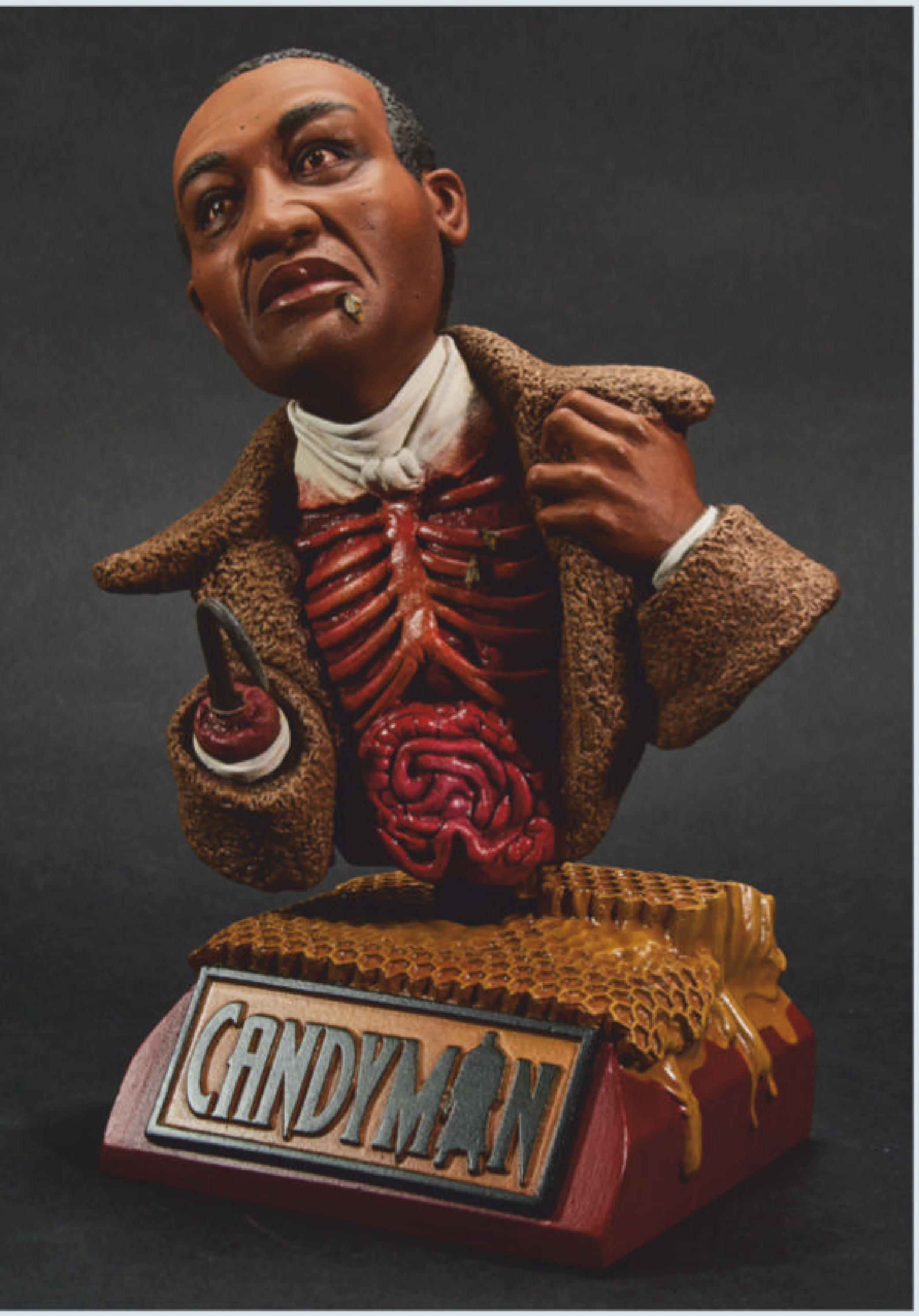
"This model was built in 1980 when I was 20 years old," Joe says. "It sat in a box for almost 40 years before I pulled it out and disassembled it to be rebuilt and repainted." In addition to a new resin bridge, navigational deflector, and photo-etched metal details, his refit of the Refit USS *Enterprise* from *Star Trek: The Motion Picture* includes five colors of shimmering ink applied over white paint and masks for the distinctive Aztec surface pattern.



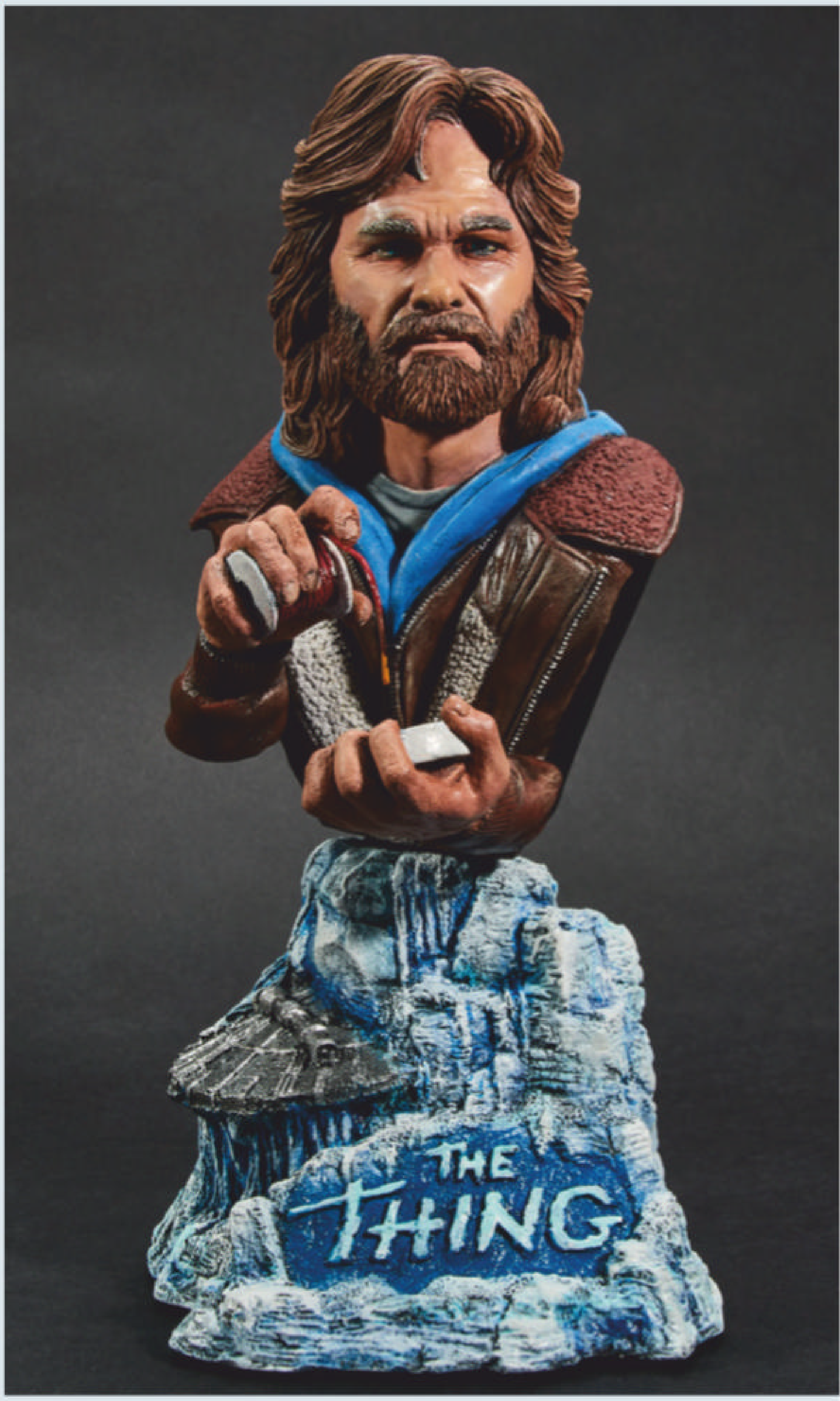
▶ MICHAEL HEICKEN
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

Deviating from the standard black for *Star Wars* GNK power droids, Michael painted JPG Productions 1/12 scale model yellow using Vallejo acrylics. He added details with spare parts and wires. "He's a power droid that has seen better times," Michael says.

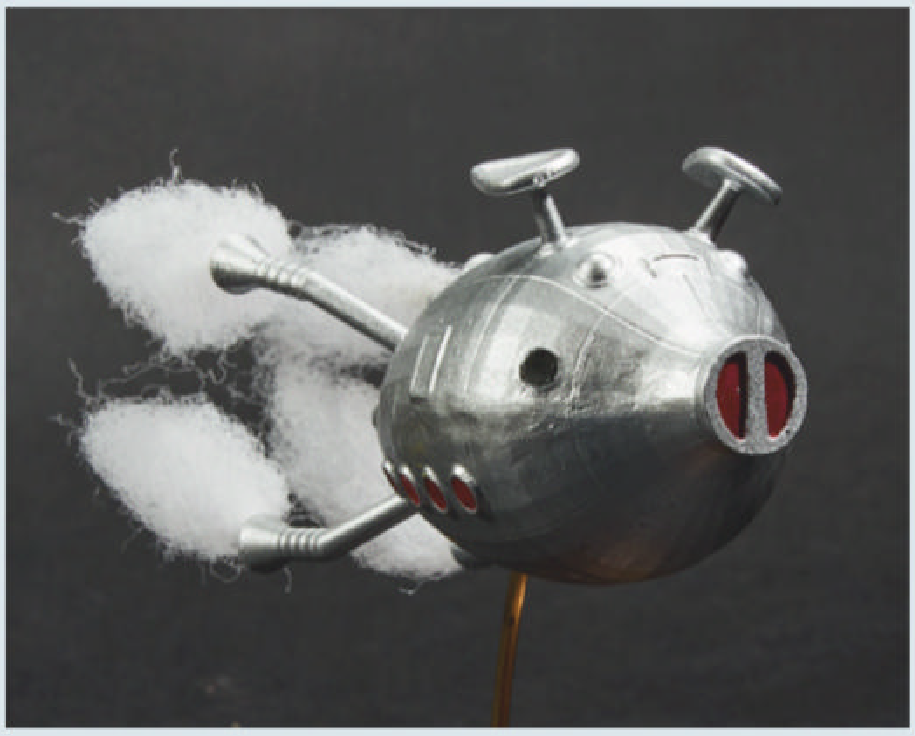




▲ **RUSS RANEY**
GREENWOOD, INDIANA
Working with a Model Prisoner 1/4 scale bust of Candyman based on a promotional poster for the 1992 horror film of the same name, Russ painted it with Deco Hobby acrylics over automotive primer.

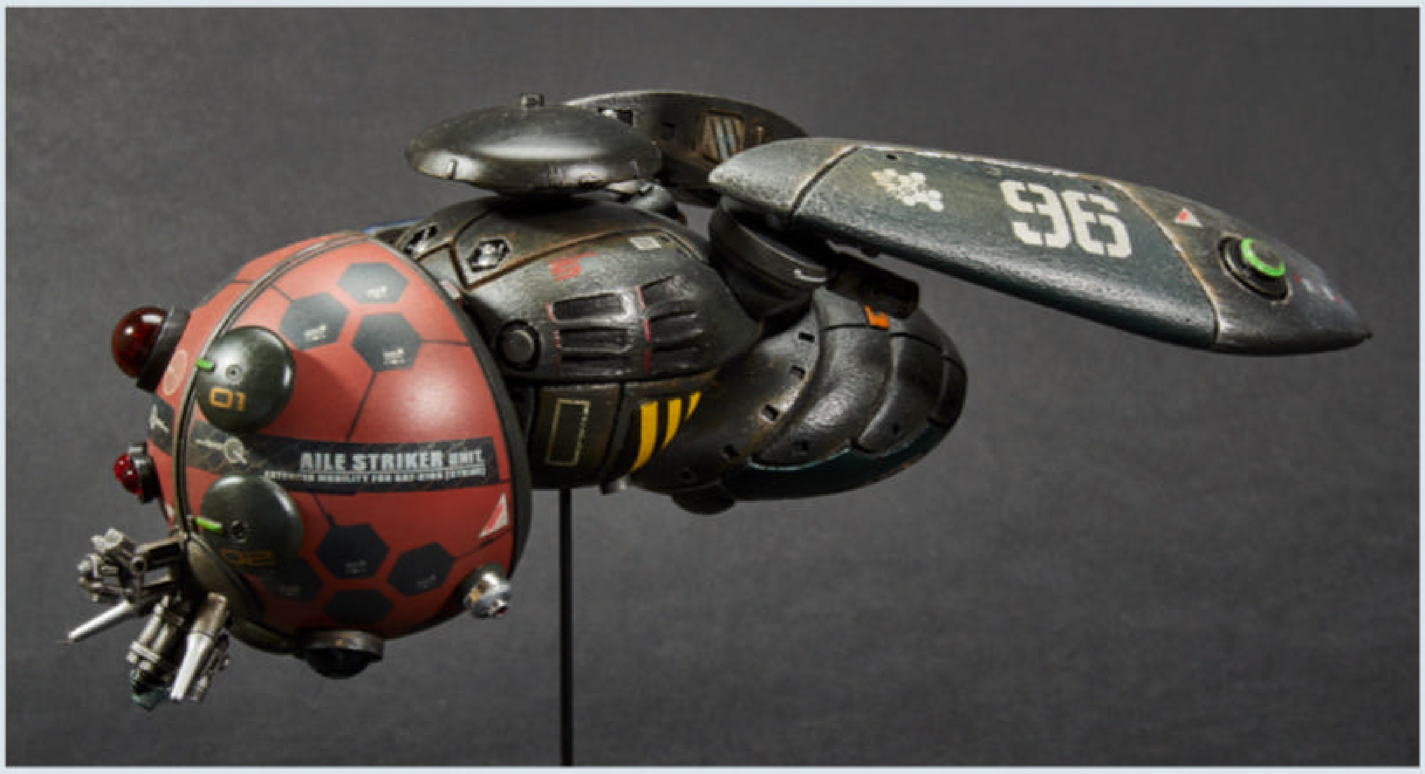


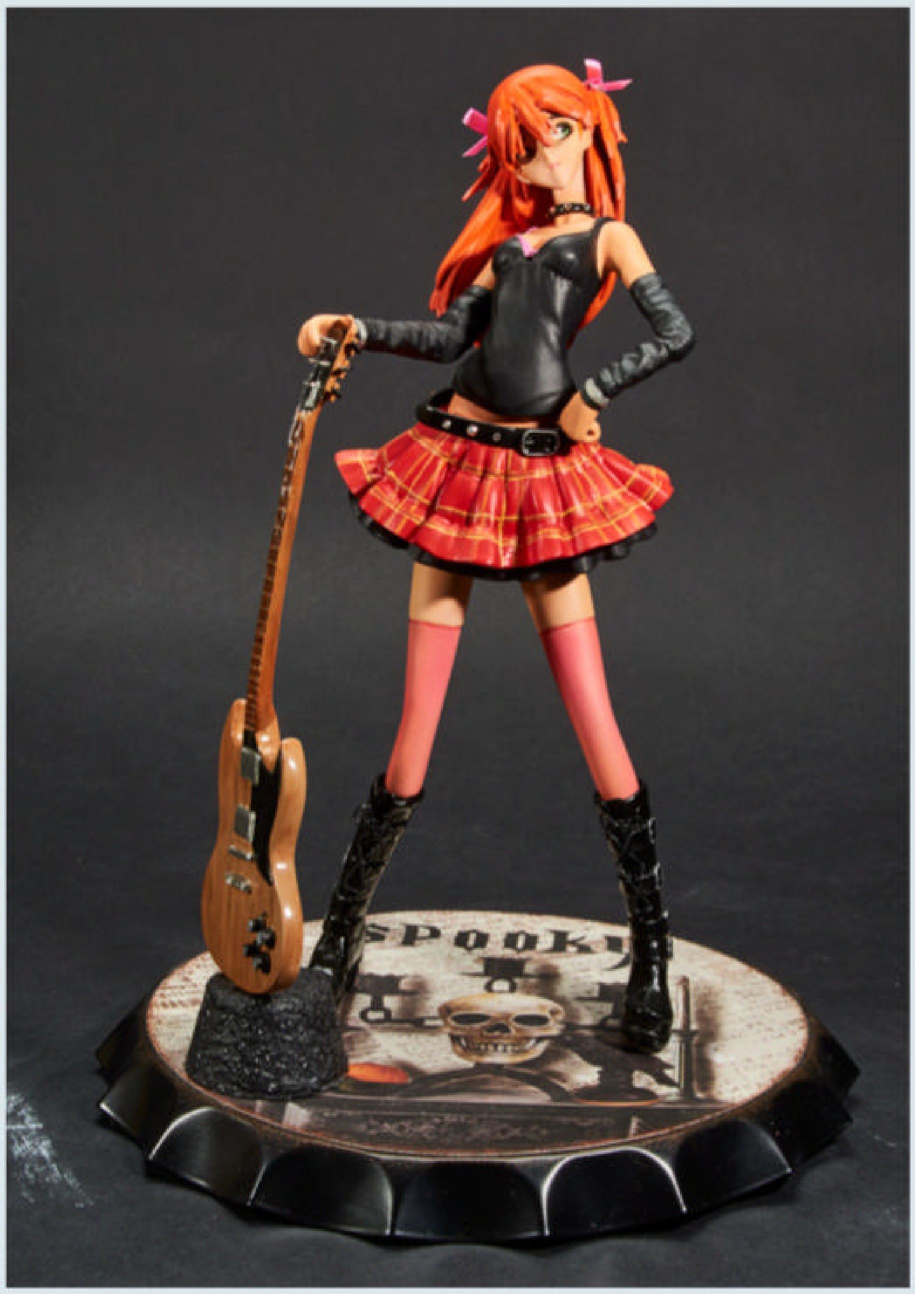
▲ **ROY A. BARIL**
MARTINEZ, CALIFORNIA
Roy primed his Gillman Productions' 1/4 scale bust of MacReady, Kurt Russell's character from John Carpenter's *The Thing*, with Testors Flat Black before dry-brushing on Tamiya, Polly Scale, and Vallejo acrylics for color and shading. To pop the ice on the base, he layered dark and clear blues before moving to lighter blue and white.

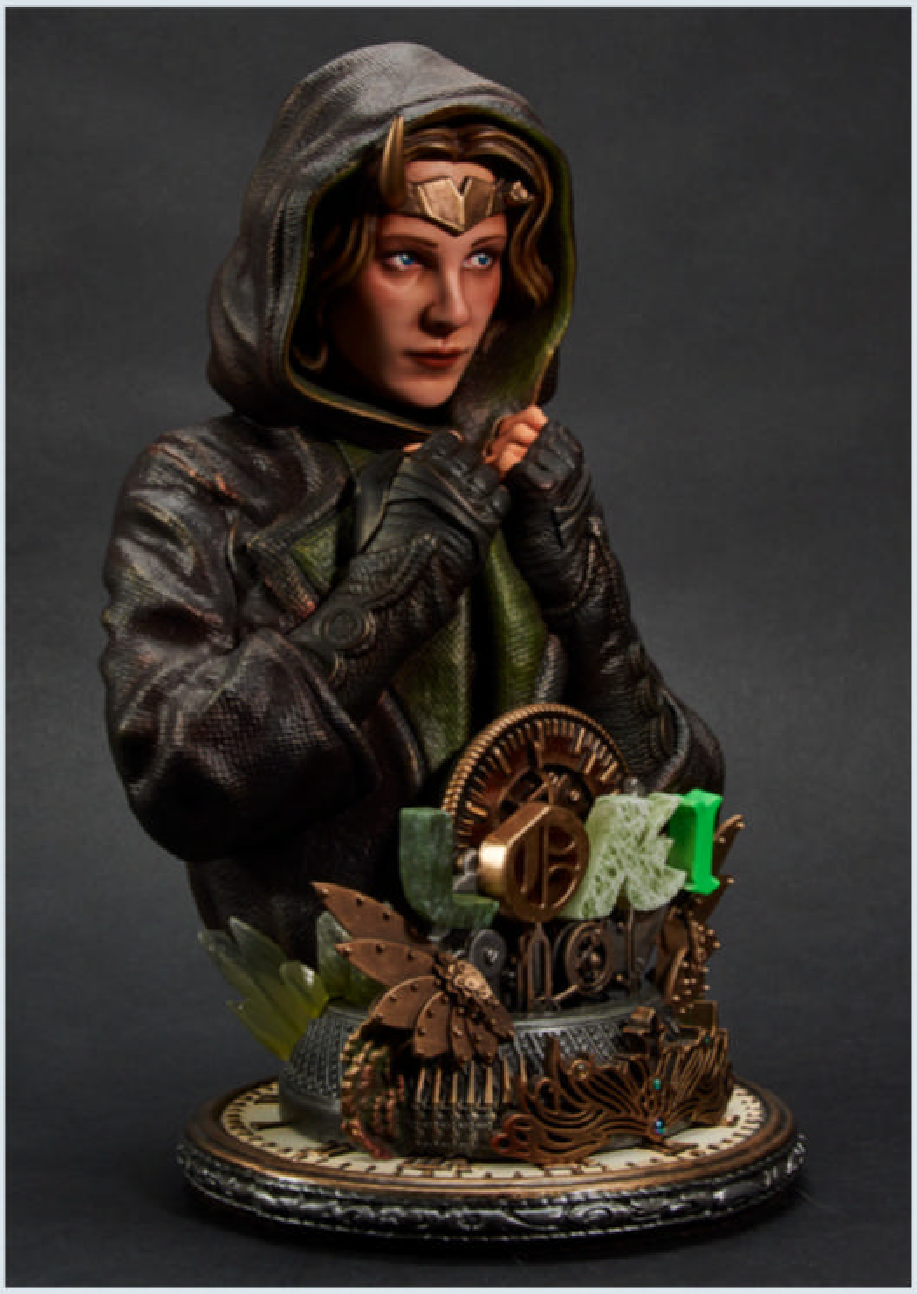


◀ **JIM JAMES**
WINTER GARDEN, FLORIDA
Jim painted JPG Productions USS *Swinetrek*, the starship that carried *The Muppet Show* "Pigs in Space" on their less-than-stellar but joke-filled adventures, with enamels and added polyfill exhaust plumes.

▶ SCOTT WASHINGTON
FAIRBURN, GEORGIA
Scott's scratchbuilt insectoid model, appropriately named *The Bug*, is a three-man surveillance vehicle he describes as "an advanced version of a helicopter that operates with antigrav technology." He painted *The Bug* with Tamiya acrylics.

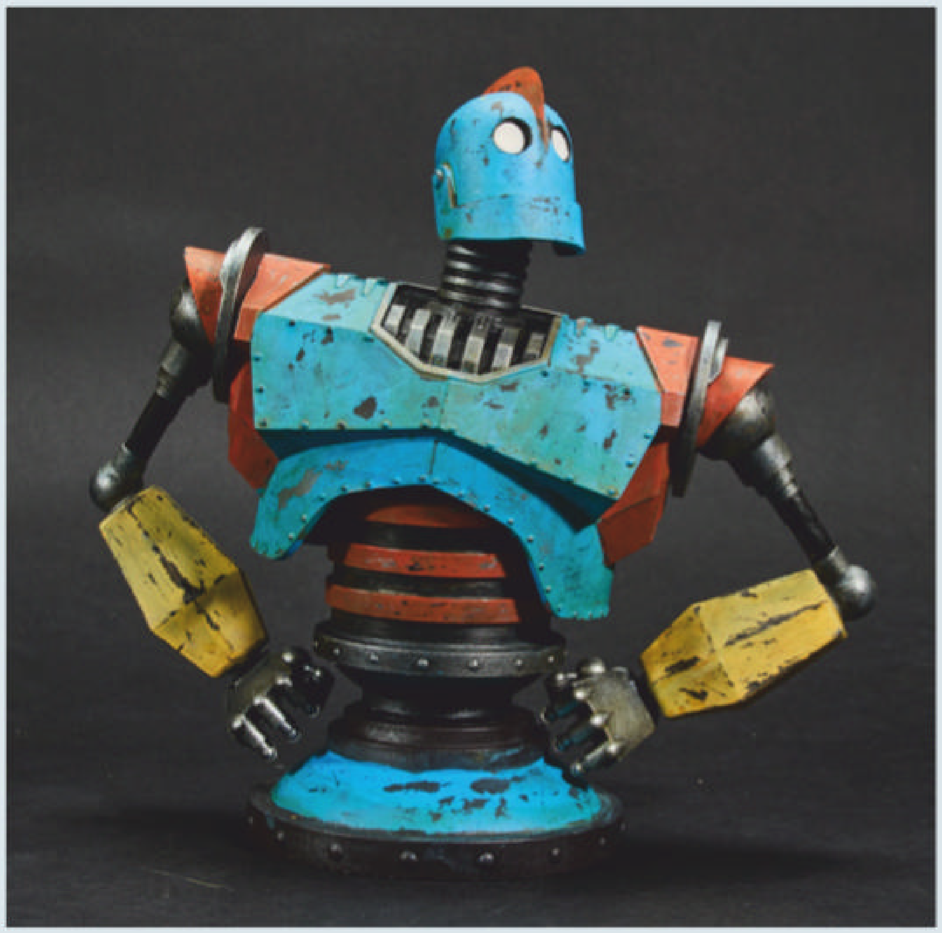




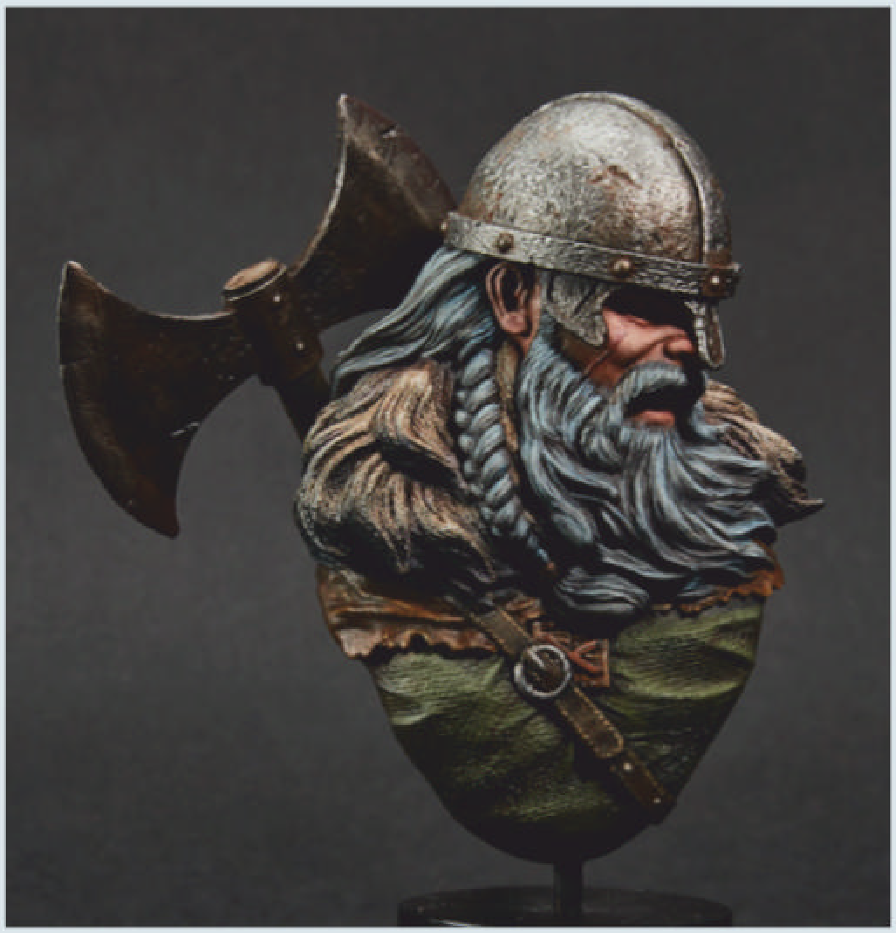


▲ CHUCK HOMOLKA
PARMA HEIGHTS, OHIO
Chuck says E2046's 1/6 scale Punk Asuka was his first serious attempt to do an anime figure. He improved the model with solder bootlaces, rebuilt the guitar with his own details and strings, and painted everything with Tamiya acrylics.

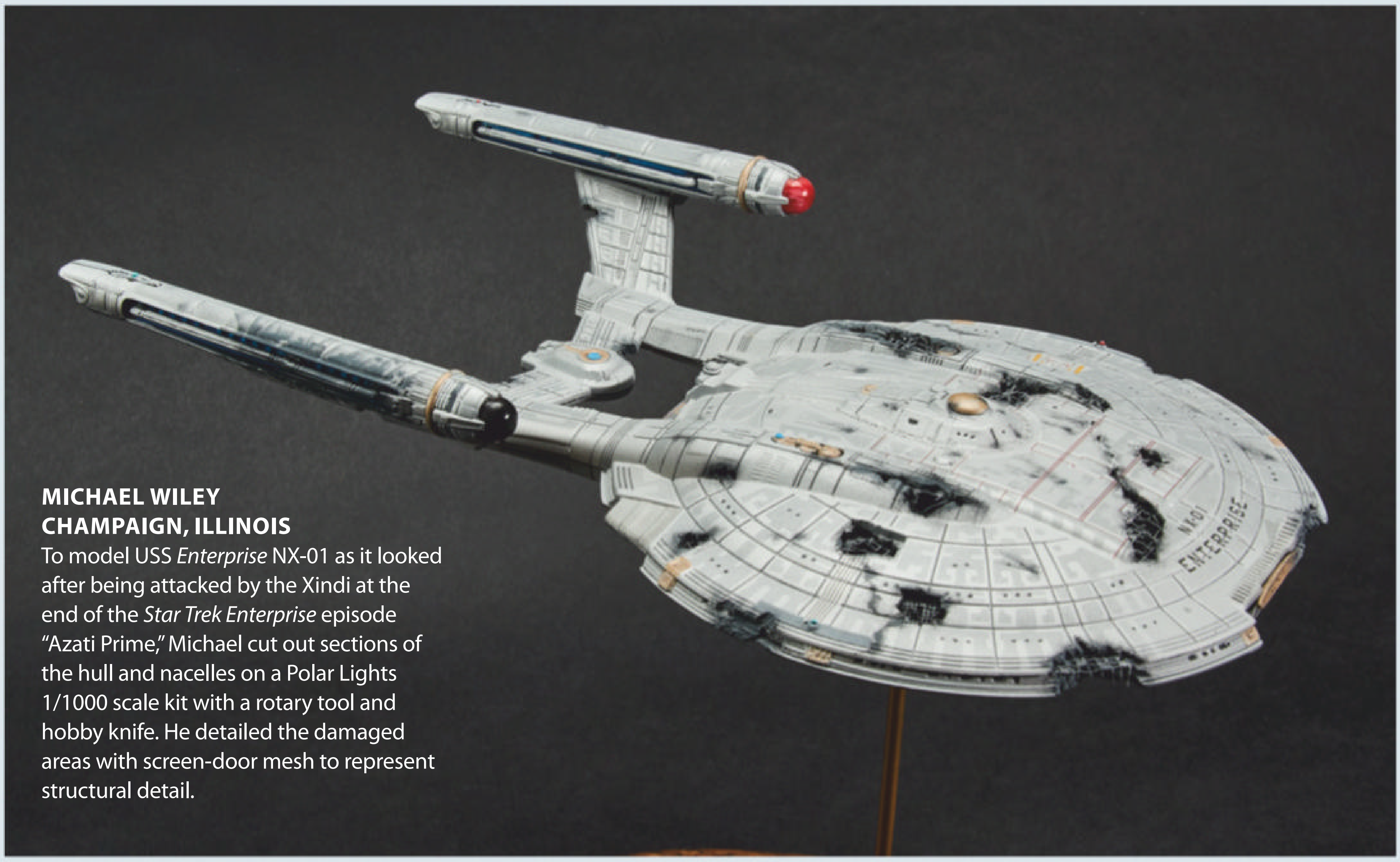
▲ ANNYA SHETININA
FRIDLEY, MINNESOTA
Annya painted a 3D-printed bust of Sylvie from *Loki* by online designer Wicked with airbrushed acrylic base coats, pastel shading, and hand-painted details. "I used Rub 'n Buff for all of the metal parts," she says.



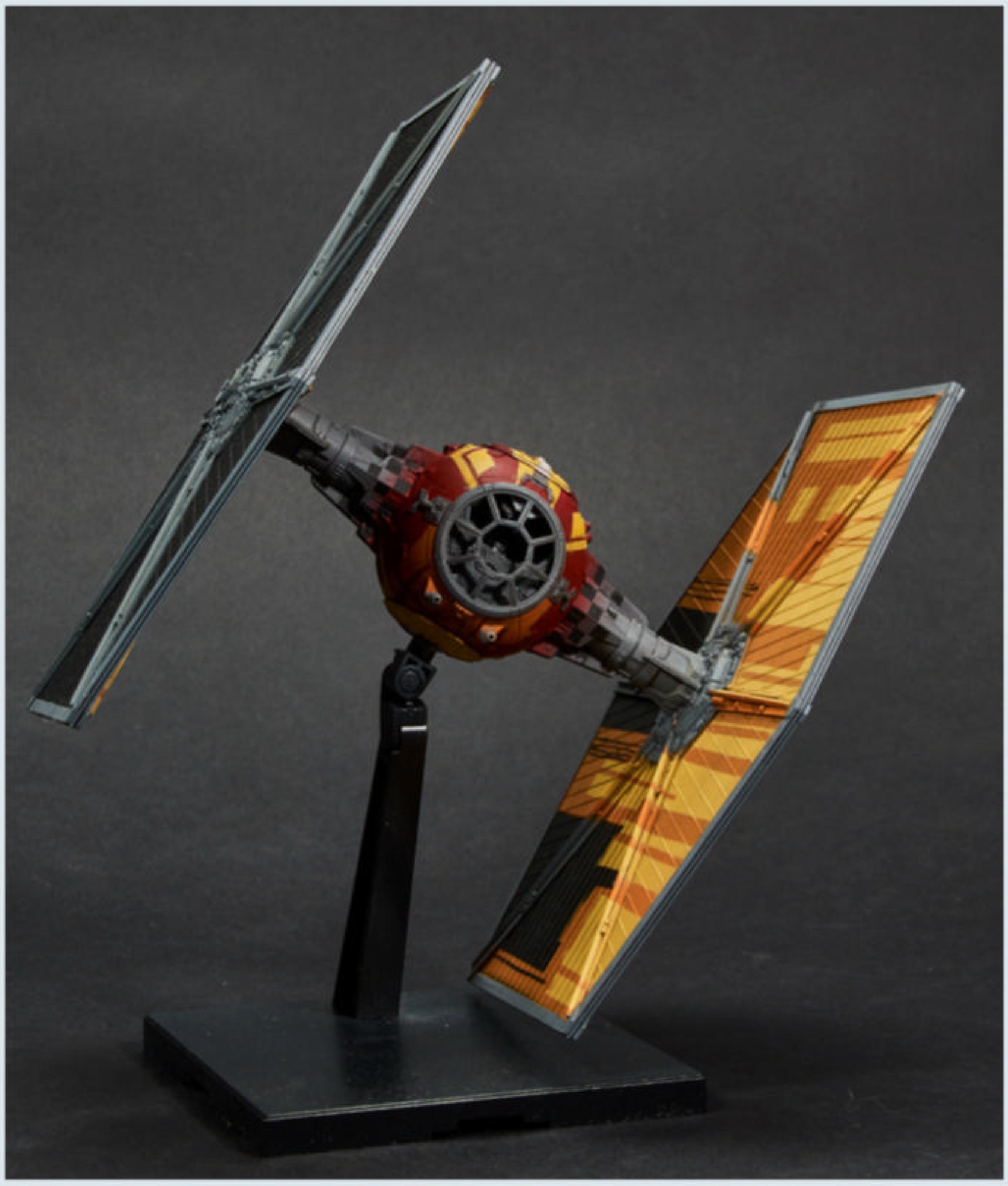
▲ TOM CLARK
TONEY, ALABAMA
Converting Tony Cipriano's bust of the Iron Giant into an average working robot, Tom gave it a distressed multicolor paint scheme. He painted the model by hand and used hairspray to weather the finish.



▲ KENNETH CHILDRES
SHERWOOD, ARKANSAS
To finish Blackheart Models' 1/6 scale Viking, Kenneth coated the resin bust with Tamiya spray-can primer before pre-shading shadows with airbrushed black; he hit the highlights with white. Glazes applied with both paint and airbrushes shaded the clothing and hair and he painted the face with an airbrush.

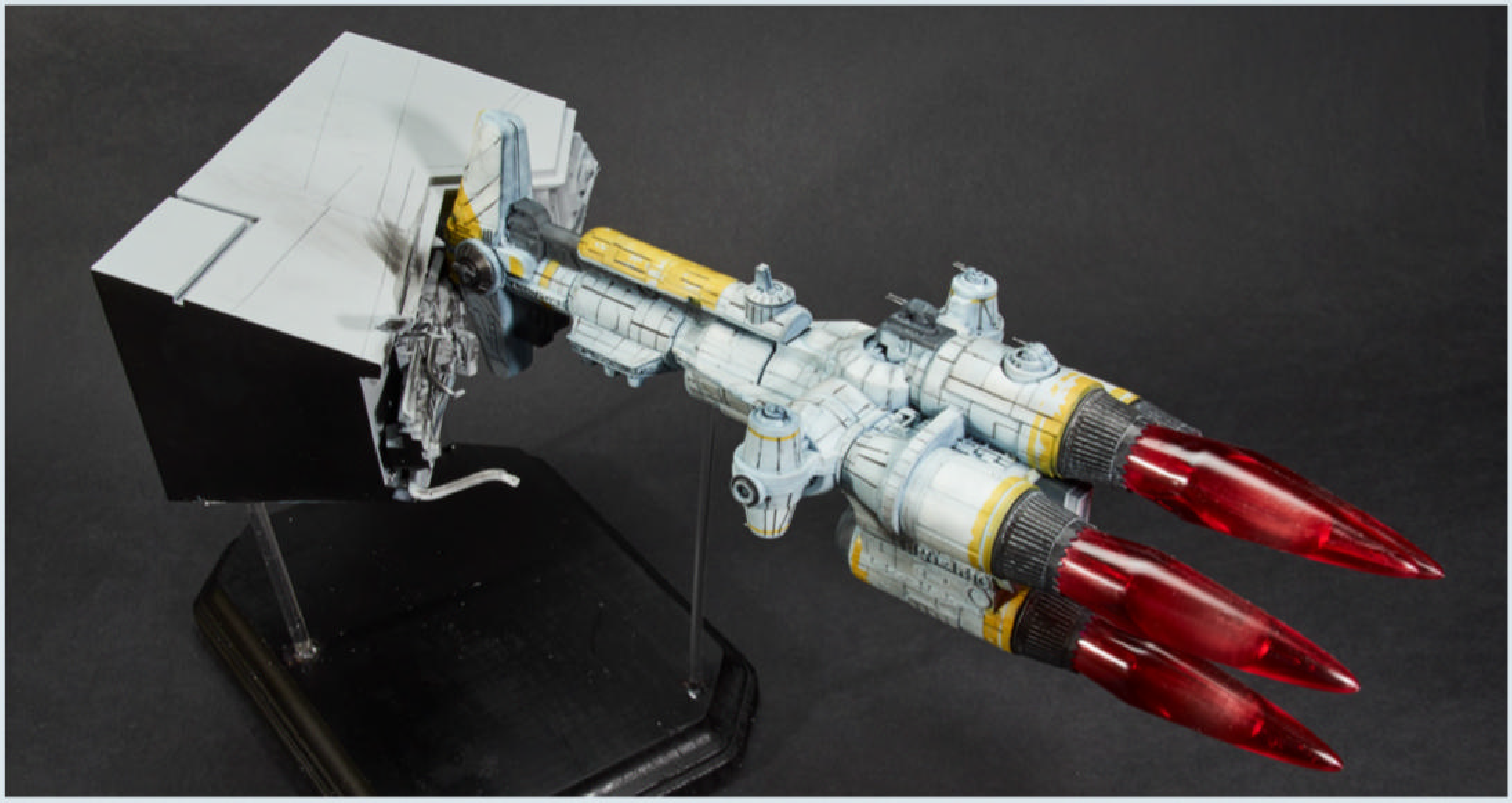


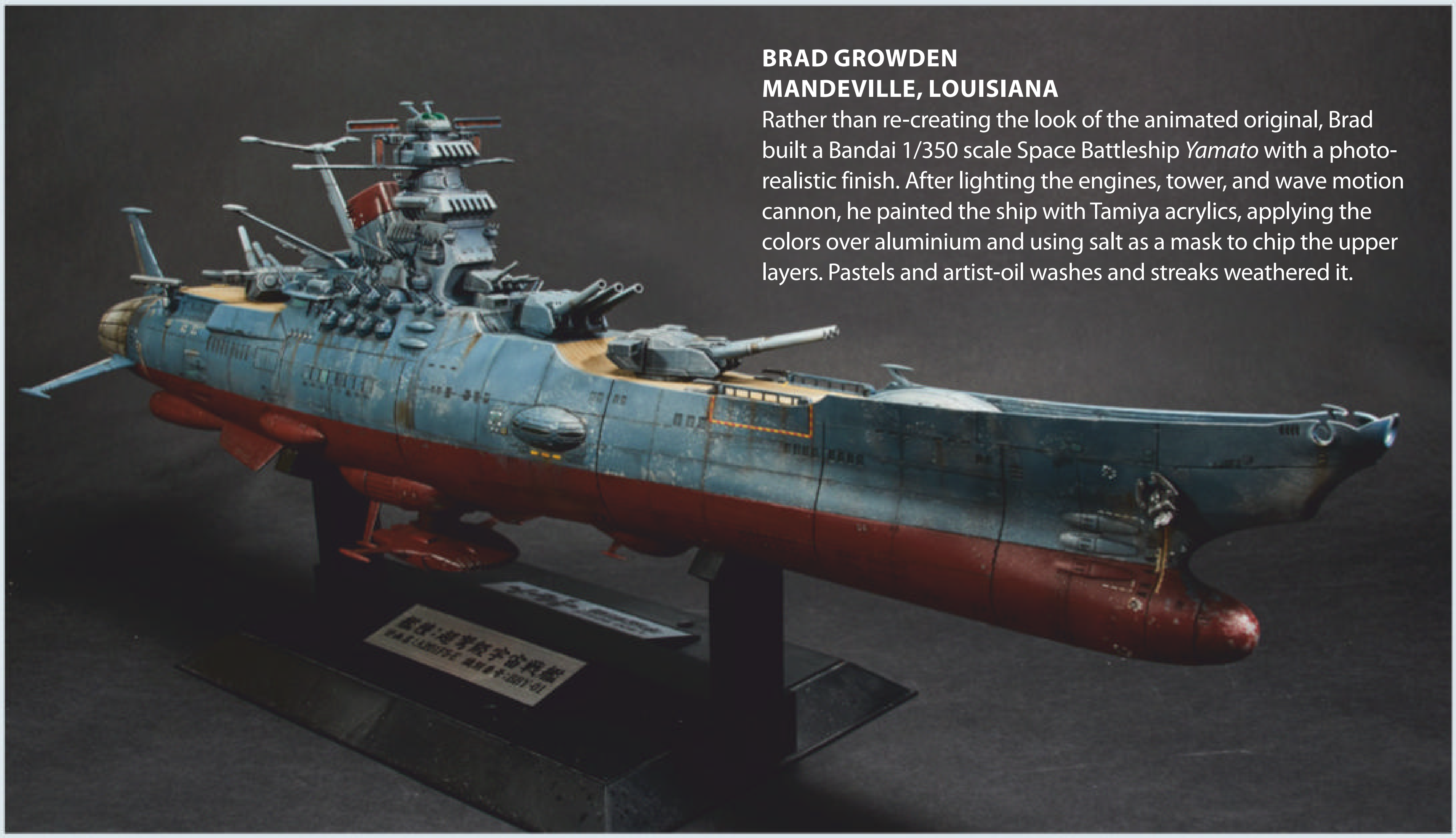
MICHAEL WILEY
CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS
To model USS *Enterprise* NX-01 as it looked after being attacked by the Xindi at the end of the *Star Trek Enterprise* episode "Azati Prime," Michael cut out sections of the hull and nacelles on a Polar Lights 1/1000 scale kit with a rotary tool and hobby knife. He detailed the damaged areas with screen-door mesh to represent structural detail.



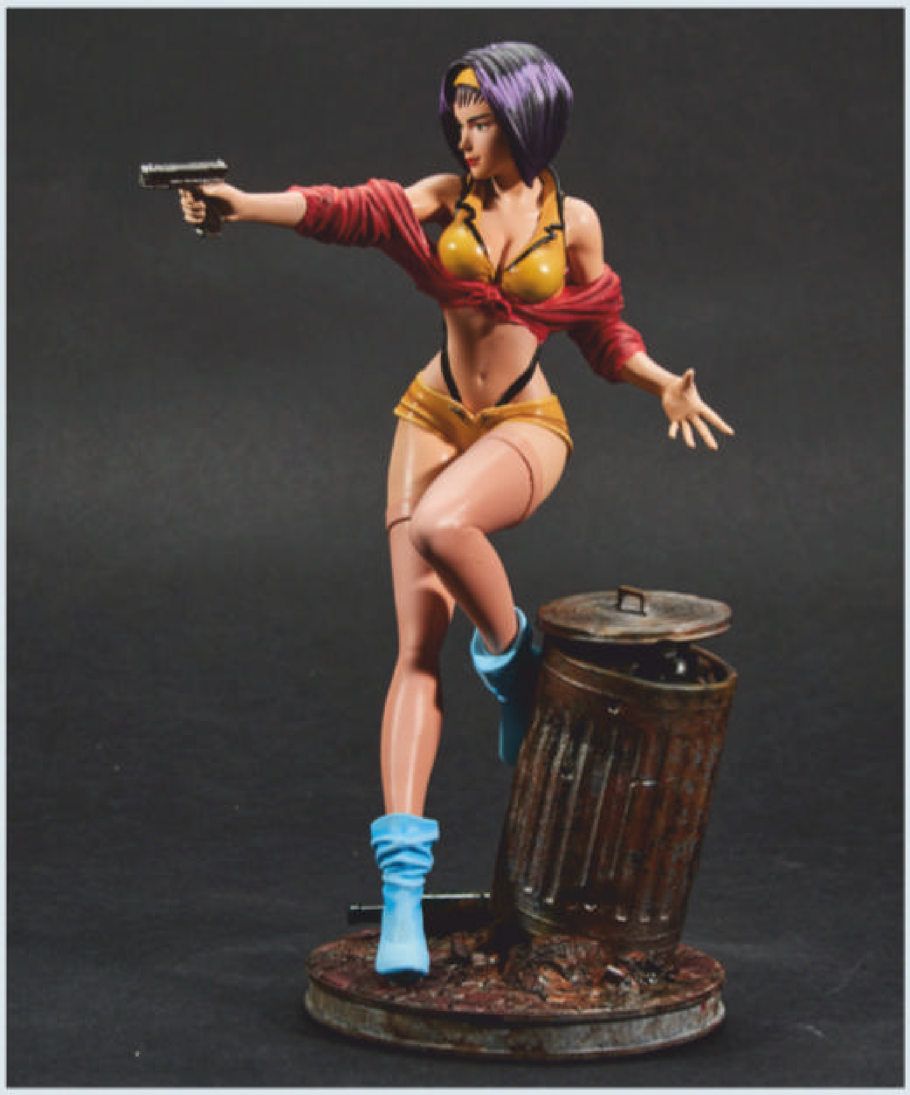
▶ **BRIAN McGINNIS**
HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA
After painting a Bandai 1/72 scale TIE fighter with grays and blacks like a standard Imperial ship, Brian used Tamiya tape to mask the solar panels and a vinyl cutter to create other masks to finish it as the TIE redecorated by Sabine Wren in *Star Wars Rebels*.

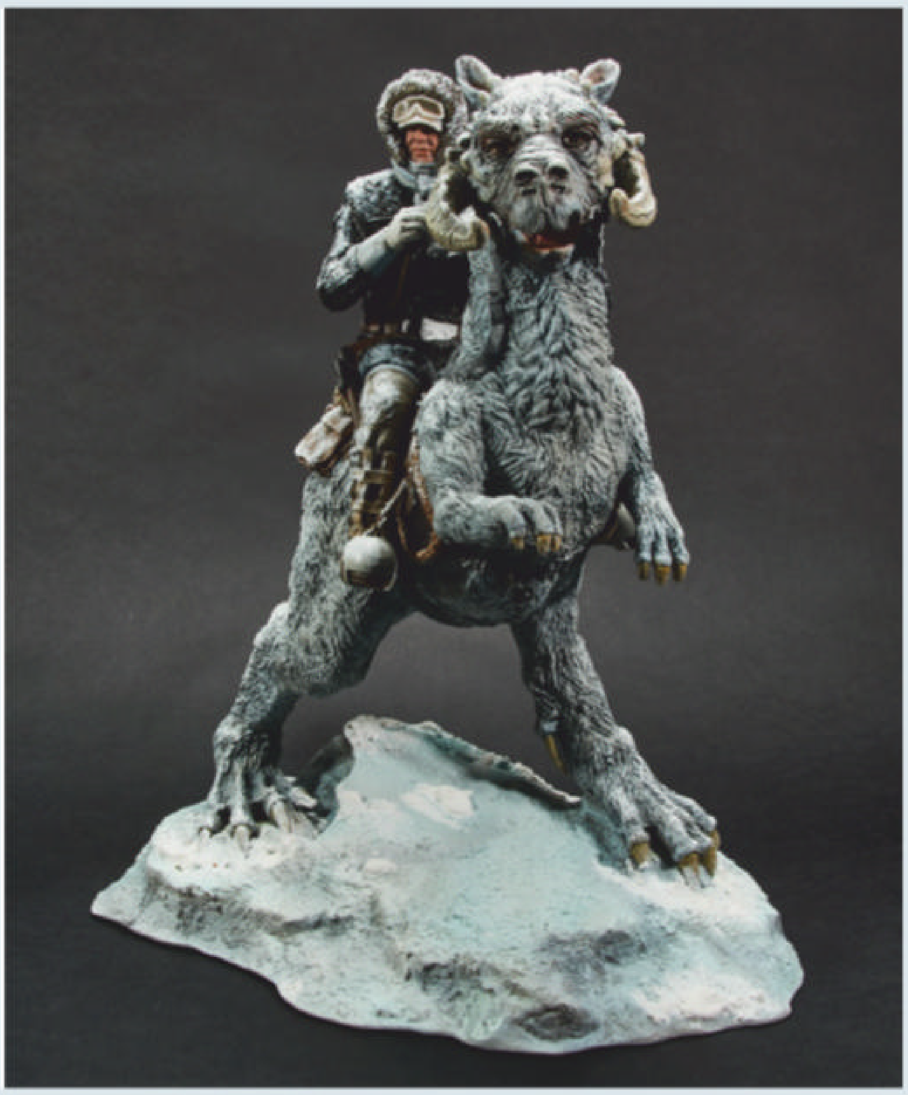
▼ **STEVE SHAFFER**
HASTINGS, MINNESOTA
Working with two sets of 3D files, Steve reproduced the moment that a Rebel Hammerhead Corvette slams into the side of an Imperial Star Destroyer at the end of *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story*. He cut the Star Destroyer section from a larger file. Steve base-coated the vessels with Tamiya Primer before painting them with MR Paint acrylics.





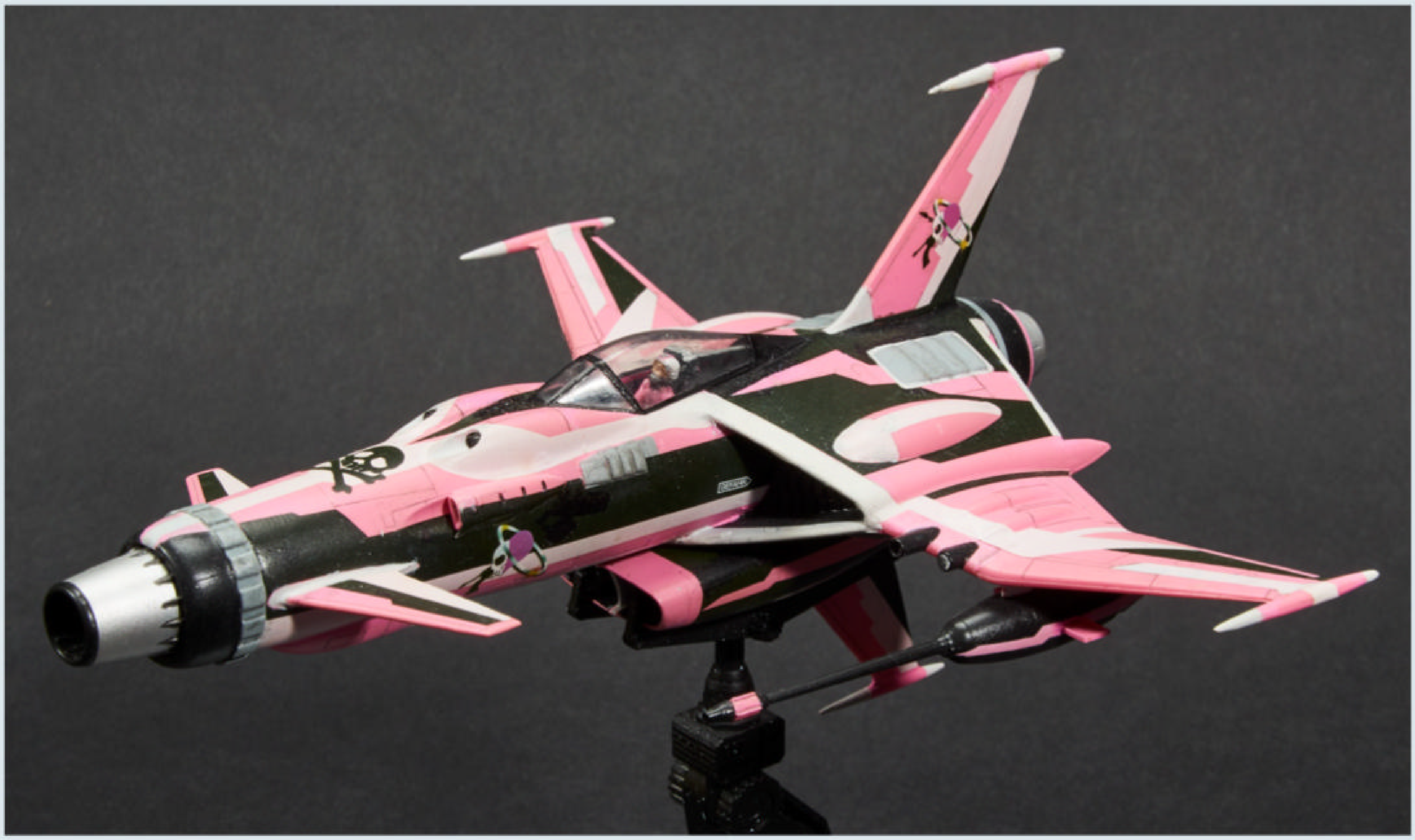
BRAD GROWDEN
MANDEVILLE, LOUISIANA
Rather than re-creating the look of the animated original, Brad built a Bandai 1/350 scale Space Battleship *Yamato* with a photo-realistic finish. After lighting the engines, tower, and wave motion cannon, he painted the ship with Tamiya acrylics, applying the colors over aluminium and using salt as a mask to chip the upper layers. Pastels and artist-oil washes and streaks weathered it.



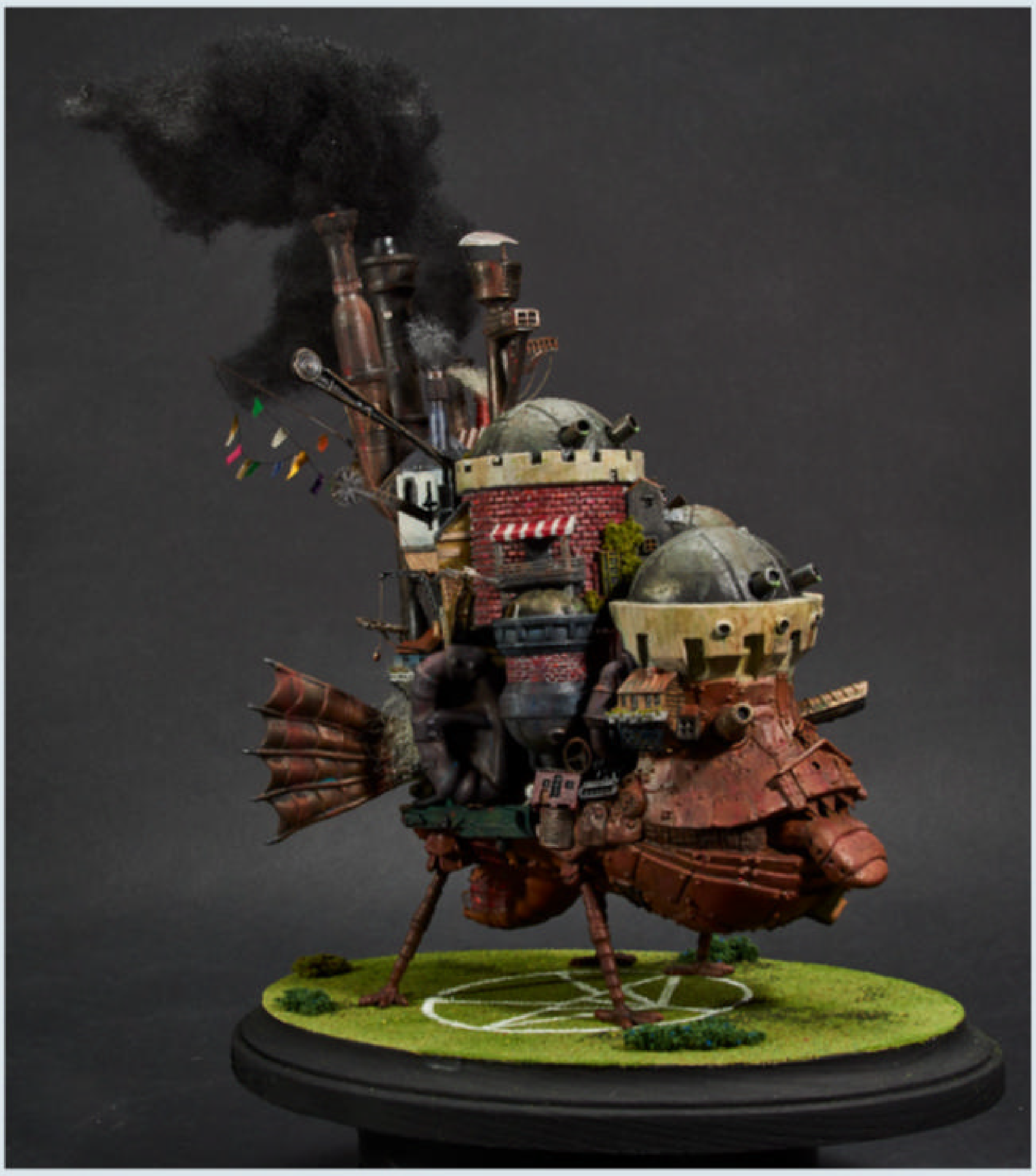


▲ **OGGIE GONZALEZ**
DEL MAR, CALIFORNIA
Oggie's build of Faye Valentine from *Cowboy Bebop* started as a 3D-printed kit designed by EdyTheCross3D at CGTrader.com. He painted the 1/8 scale bounty hunter with Vallejo acrylics.

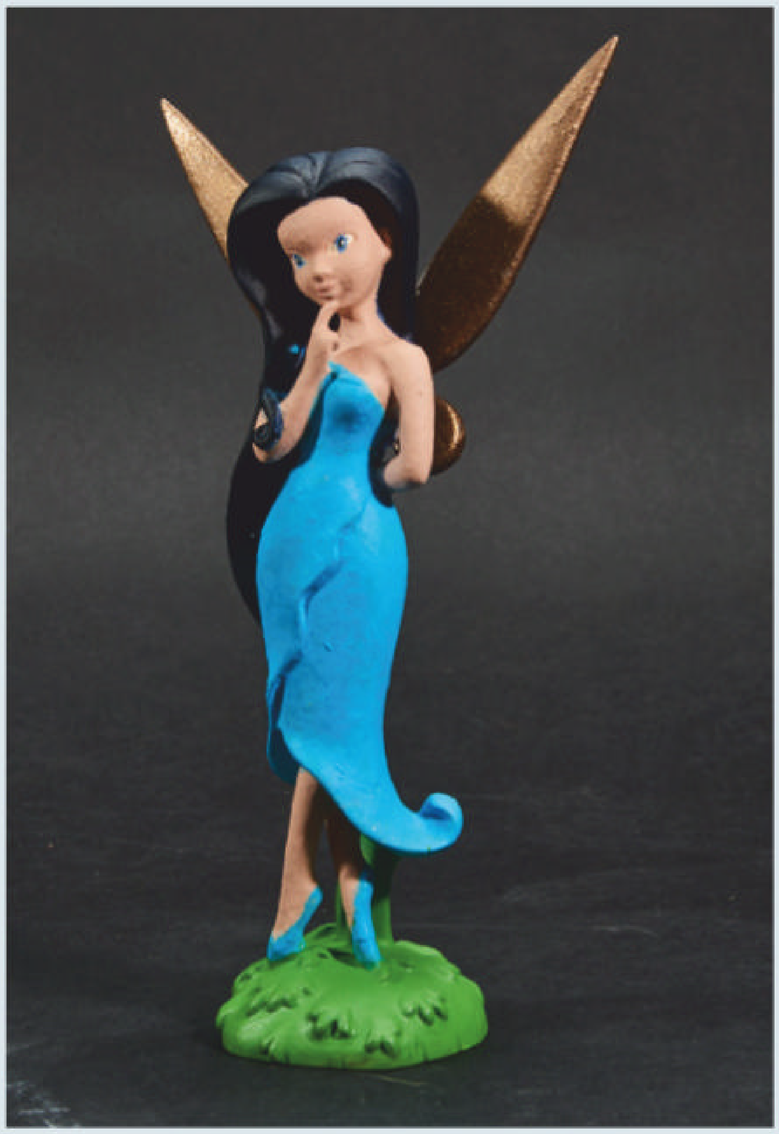
▲ **LOU DALMASO**
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA
After building a StannArts 1/12 scale "The Search for Luke" that depicts Han Solo on a Tauntaun out of the box, Lou painted it with Tamiya acrylics, including plenty of dry-brushing.



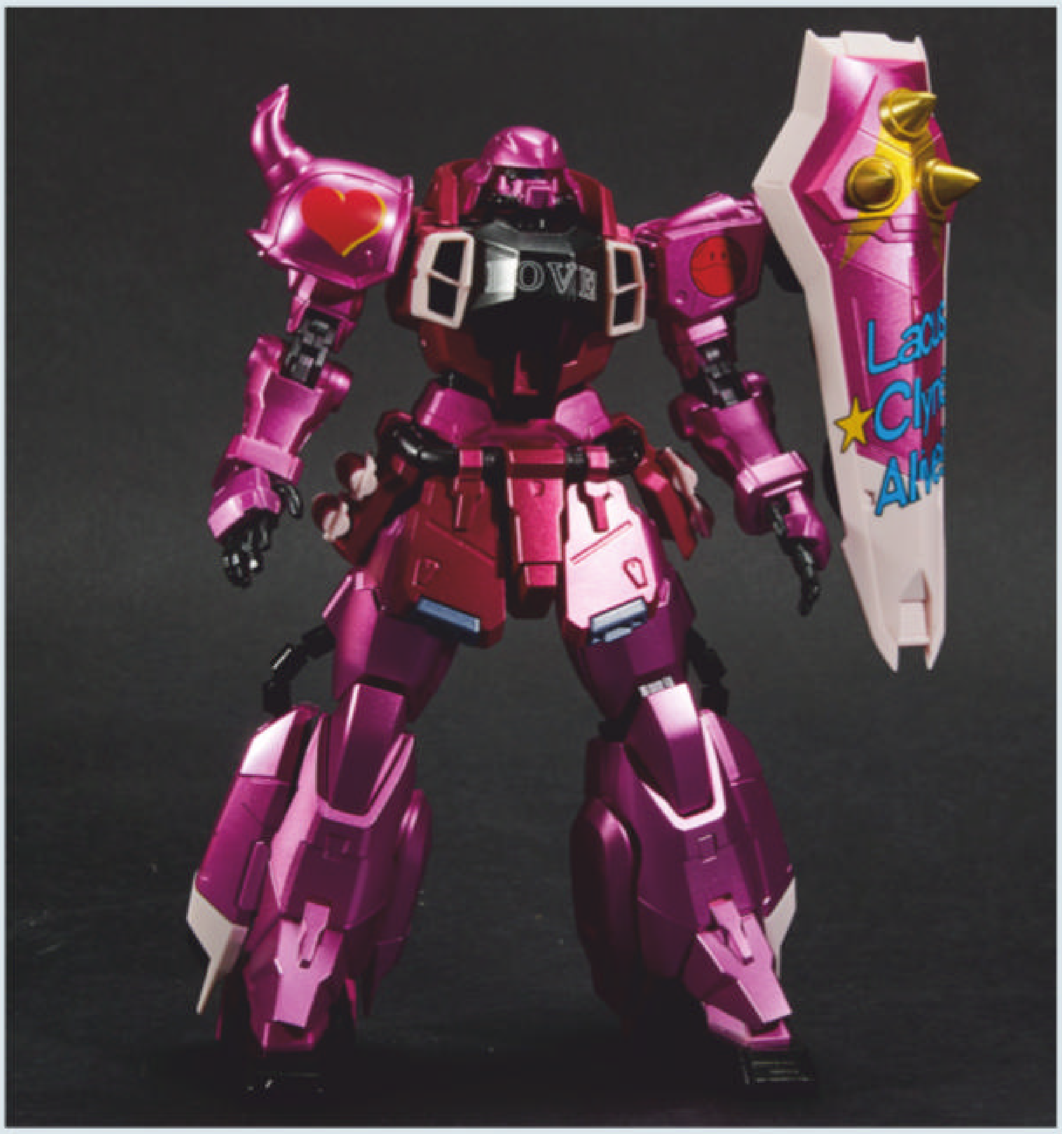
▲ **DINA AMBER ARZAPALO**
LARGO, FLORIDA
This pink ship is a Space Wolf fighter flown by Kei Yuki in the anime *Captain Harlock* films. Dina painted the 1/72 scale Hasegawa model with Tamiya and Vallejo acrylics, including a custom pink mix. "The decals were horrible and tore, so I had to paint over much of the off-white decals with Hr. Hobby Off-White acrylic," Dina said.



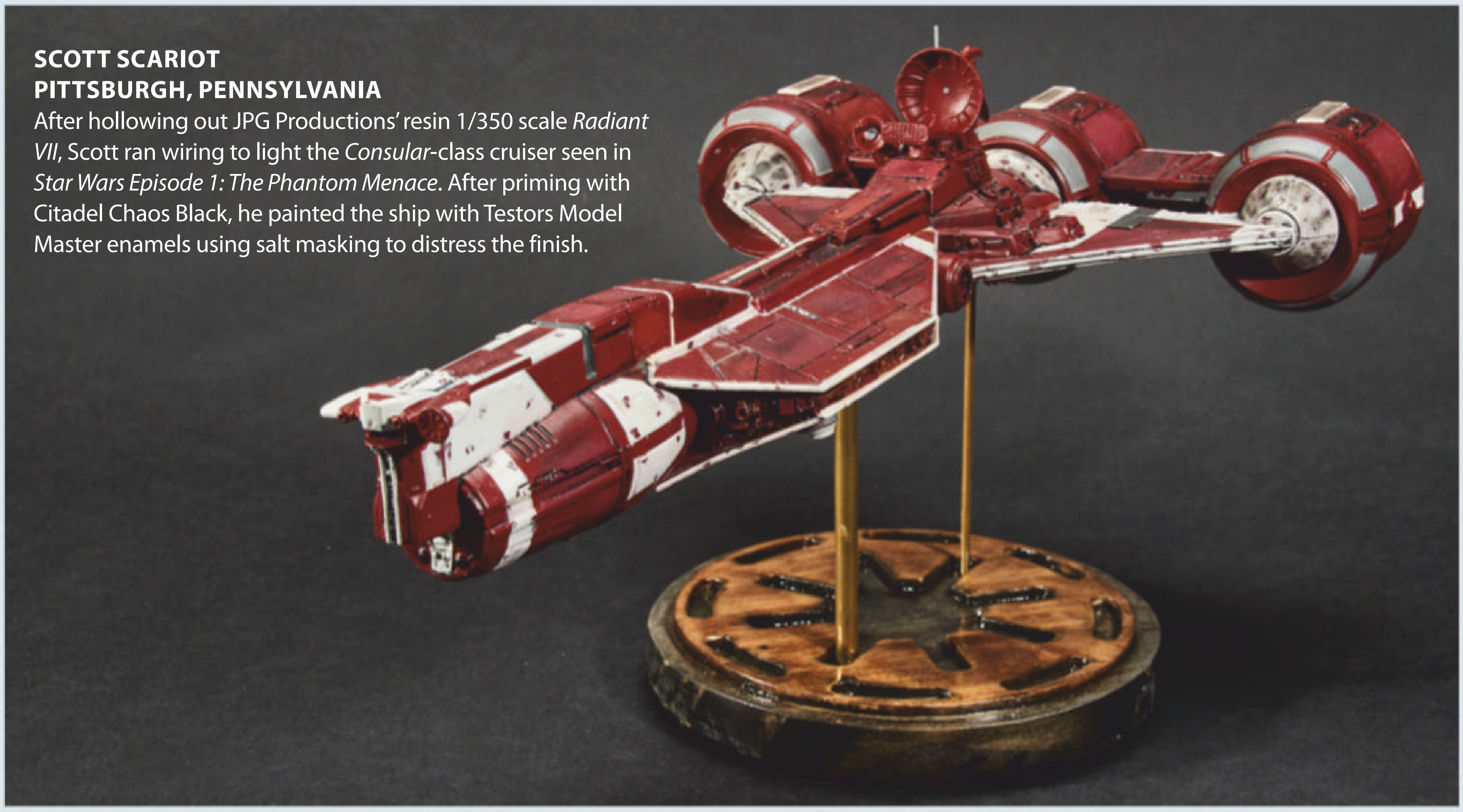
▶ **DAVID HORVATH**
SOUTH BEND, INDIANA
The main portions of this *Howl's Moving Castle* model are 3D-printed, but David did extensive scratchbuilding and added photo-etched metal details. He hand-painted the anime creation with craft acrylics and artist-oil washes.



▲ **NAYA ACOSTA**
SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA
Naya, 9, took top honors in the junior category with her rendition of Silver Mist from Disney's *Tinkerbell*. She hand-painted the figure with acrylics over white primer.



▲ **BRYAN POWELL**
ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA
"This design was used in one episode of *Gundam Seed Destiny*," Bryan says. He painted Bandai's 1/100 scale Zaku Warior Live Concert Version with transparent pink over white silver and picked out panels with black and a custom cranberry.

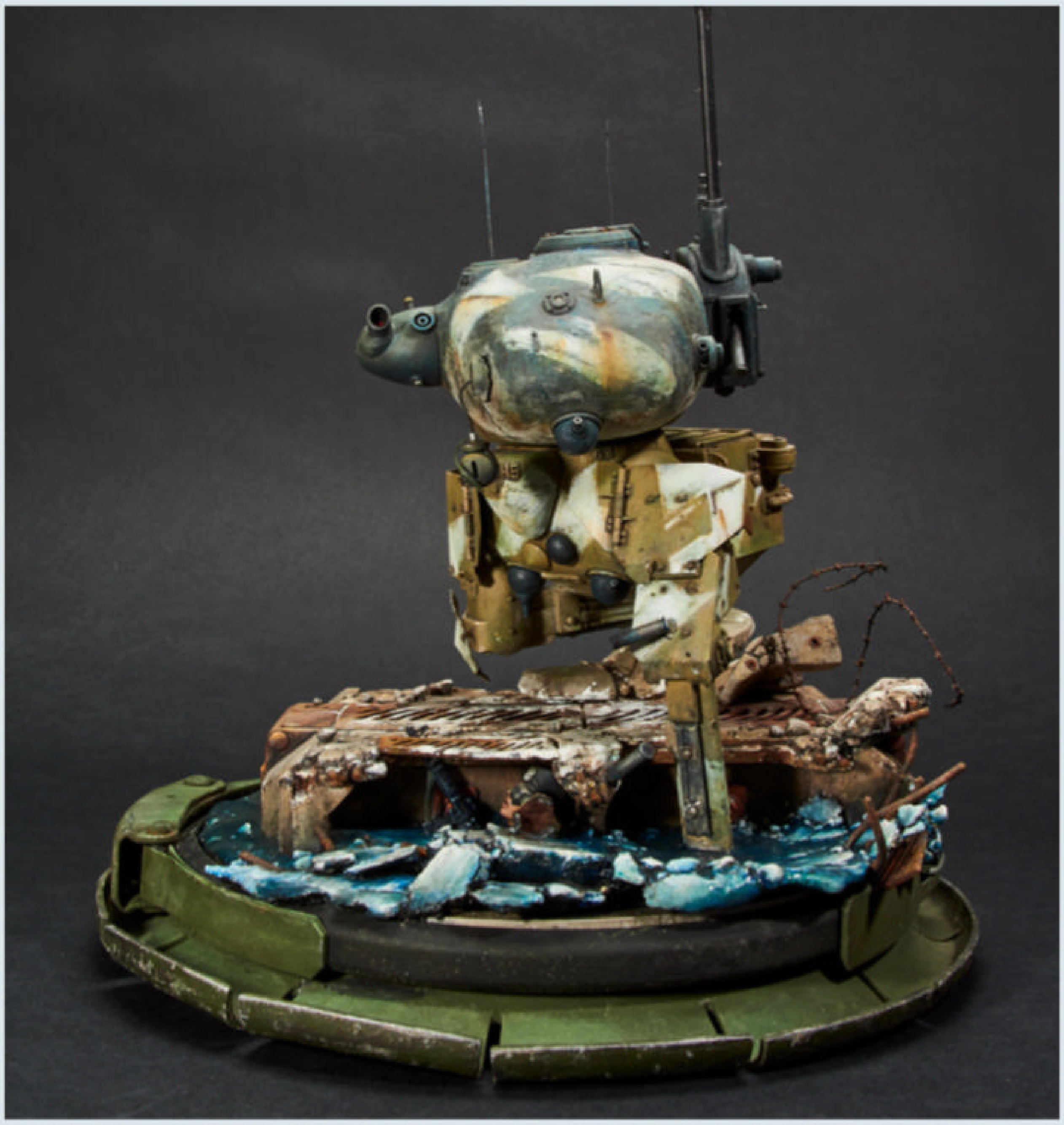


SCOTT SCARIOT
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA
After hollowing out JPG Productions' resin 1/350 scale *Radiant VII*, Scott ran wiring to light the *Consular*-class cruiser seen in *Star Wars Episode 1: The Phantom Menace*. After priming with Citadel Chaos Black, he painted the ship with Testors Model Master enamels using salt masking to distress the finish.

PAUL KEEFE

PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

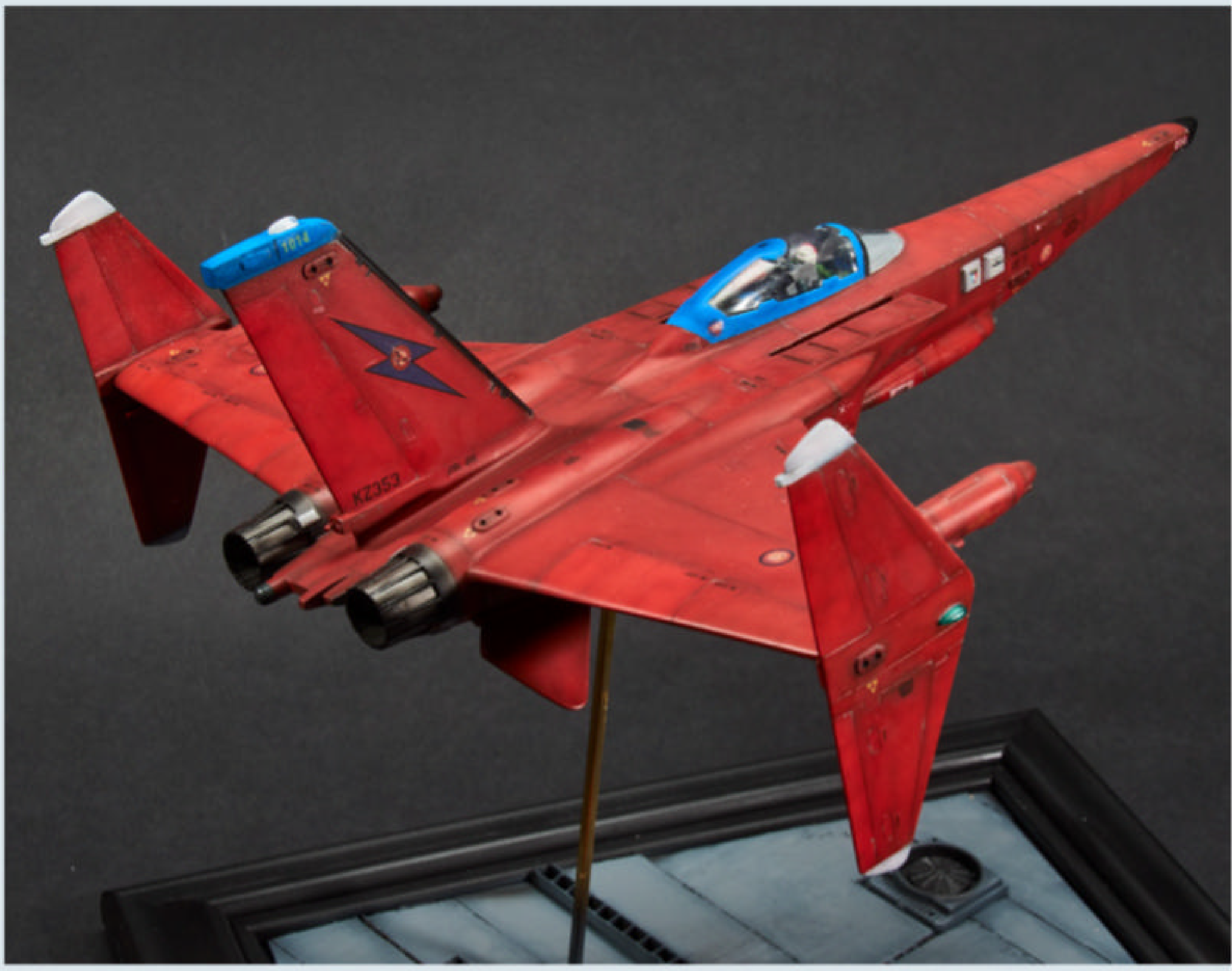
In Paul's SF3D diorama entitled "Katz and Maus," an Imperial German Krote drone walker is engaging Polish gunships while a half-submerged sapper prepares to destroy it with a magnetic mine. He modified a Nitto 1/35 scale kit of the mecha, sculpted the figure, scratchbuilt the base and frozen river, and hand-painted everything with craft acrylics.

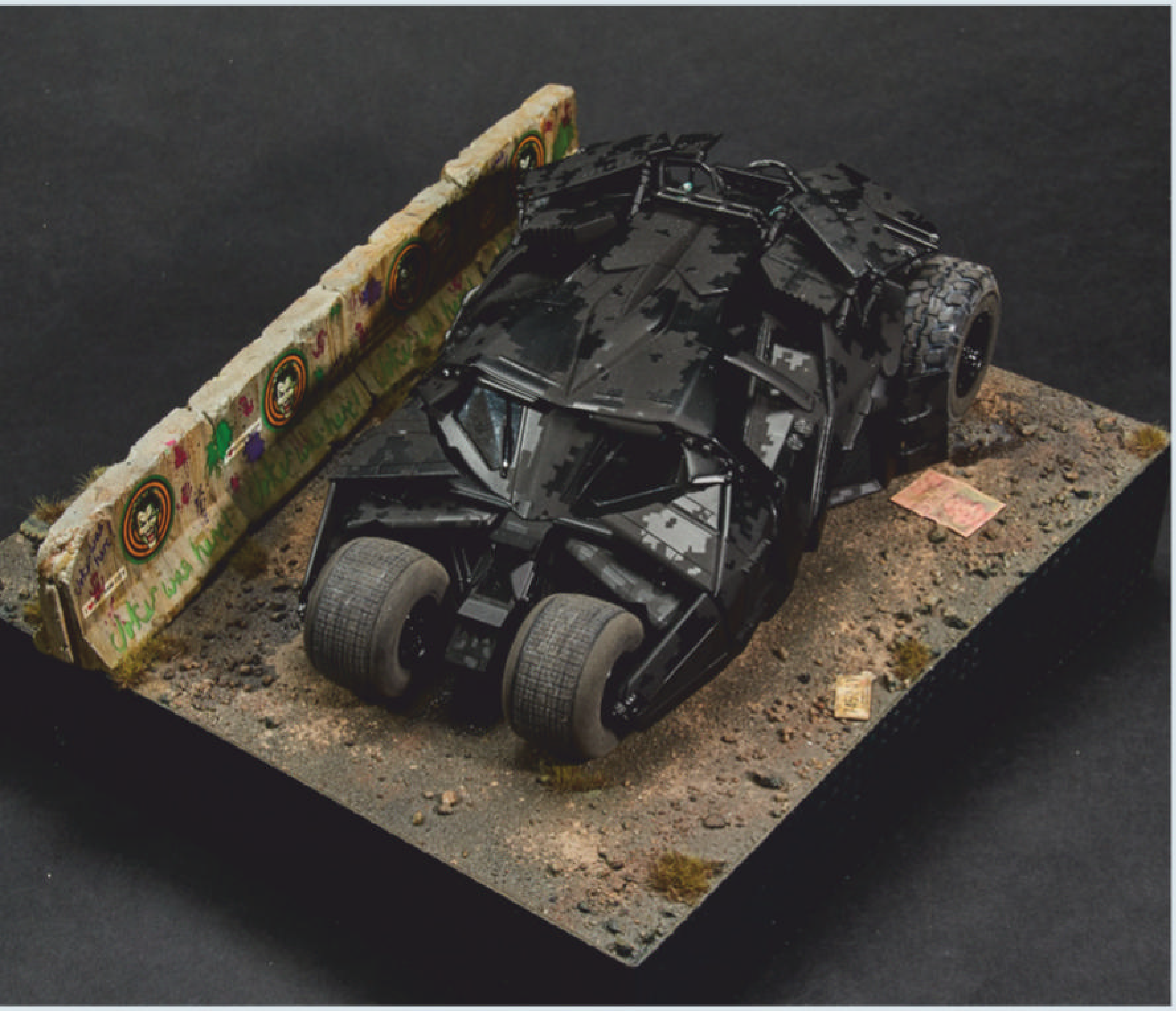


KENNY HAVERLY

BARDSTOWN, KENTUCKY

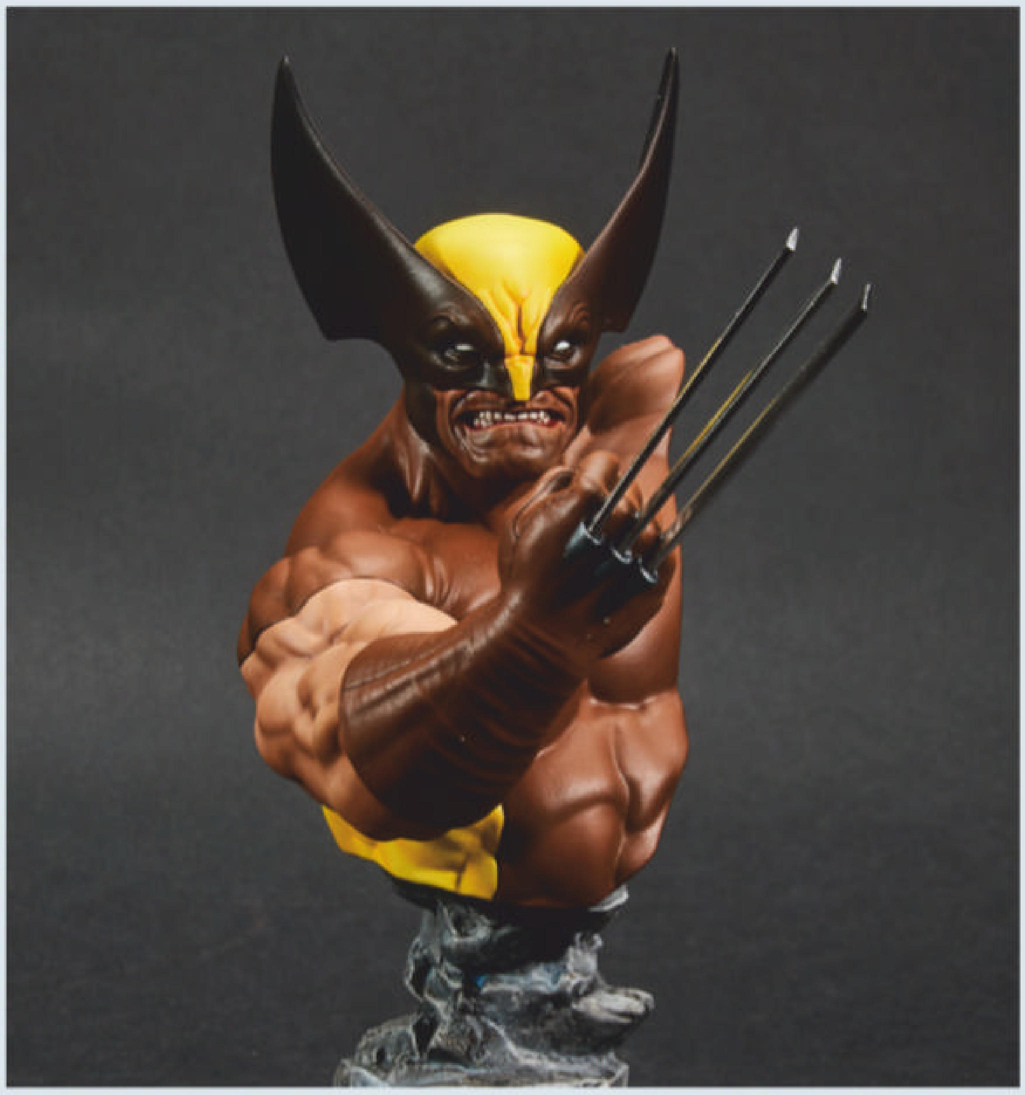
Fascinated by a starfighter on the cover of Ammo by Mig Jimenez's Star Defenders paint set, Kenny scratchbuilt it using styrene and Aves Apoxie Sculpt. He painted it with Vallejo, Ammo, Apple Barrel, and Pactra acrylics and marked it as a fighter from the *Battletech* universe with decals from Hasegawa and Fighting Pirhana Graphics.

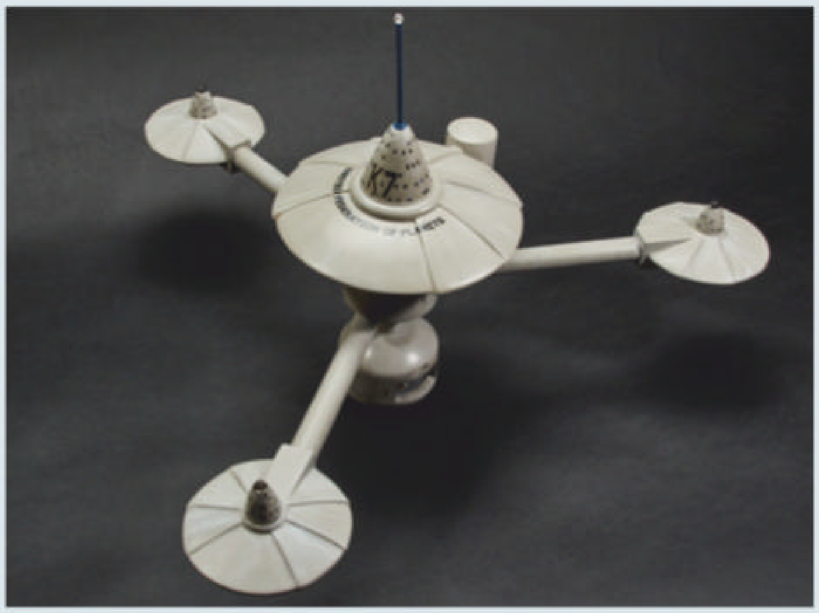




◀ **KIP PELTON**
CRESTWOOD, KENTUCKY
After building a Moebius 1/25 scale *Batman* Tumbler out of the box, Kip airbrushed a stealthy digital camouflage using satin black and flat black. The gloomy Gotham base is made from foam and topped with corkboard and weathered plaster Jersey barriers.

▼ **STEVEN CARRICATO**
COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO
For an accurate 1/1000 scale *Deep Space Station K-7* from the classic *Star Trek* episode "The Trouble With Tribbles," Steve vacuum-formed the domes and window cones and connected the components with PVC pipes. The whole thing slowly rotates on a stand and is lighted with LEDs.

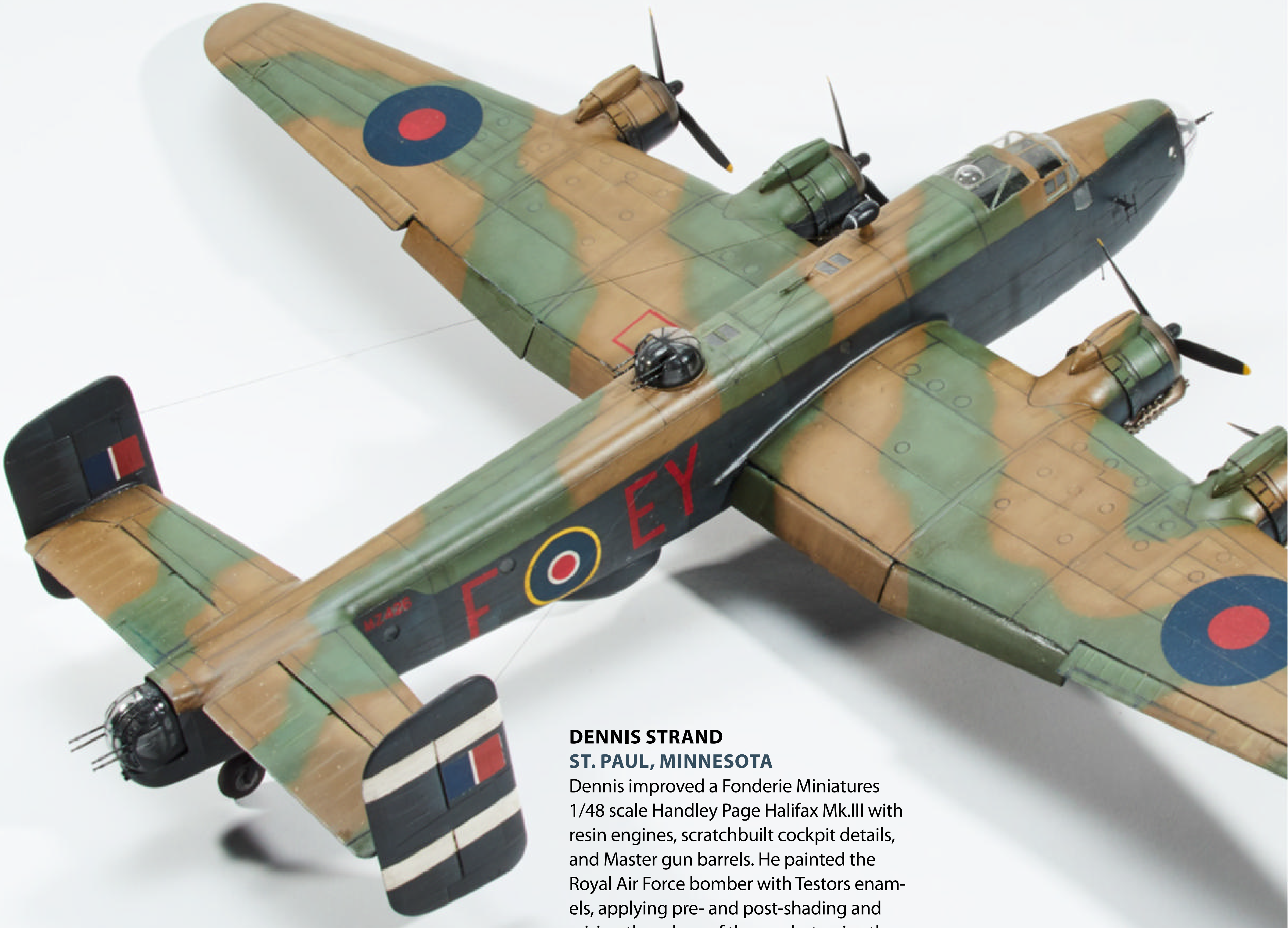




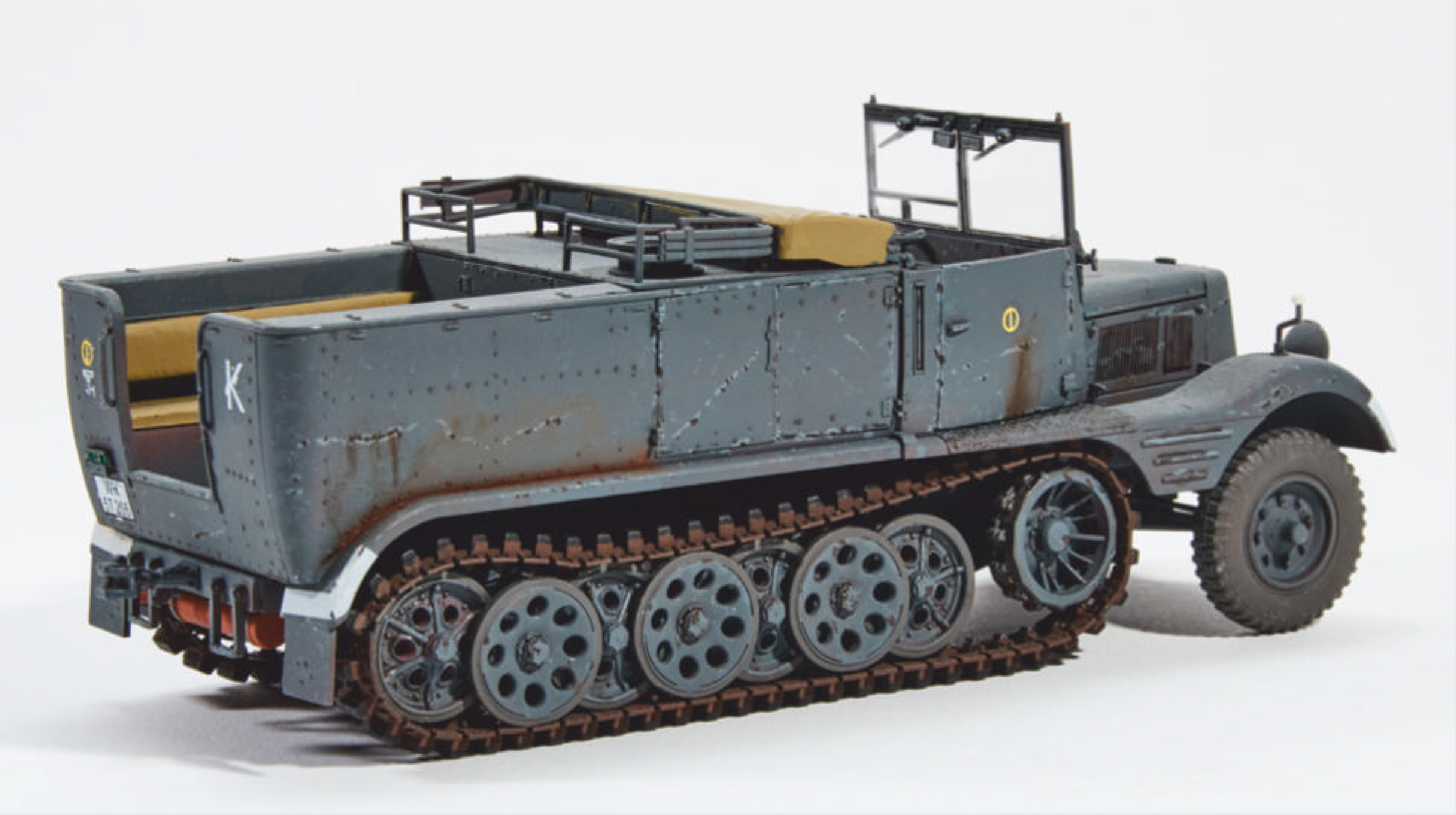
◀ **PAUL RATHBUN**
BOTHELL, WASHINGTON
Paul painted this dramatic bust of Wolverine with acrylics using pre- and post-shading and pastels to bring the rabid Marvel superhero to life. Alclad II lacquers shined his adamantium claws.

NordicCon 2022

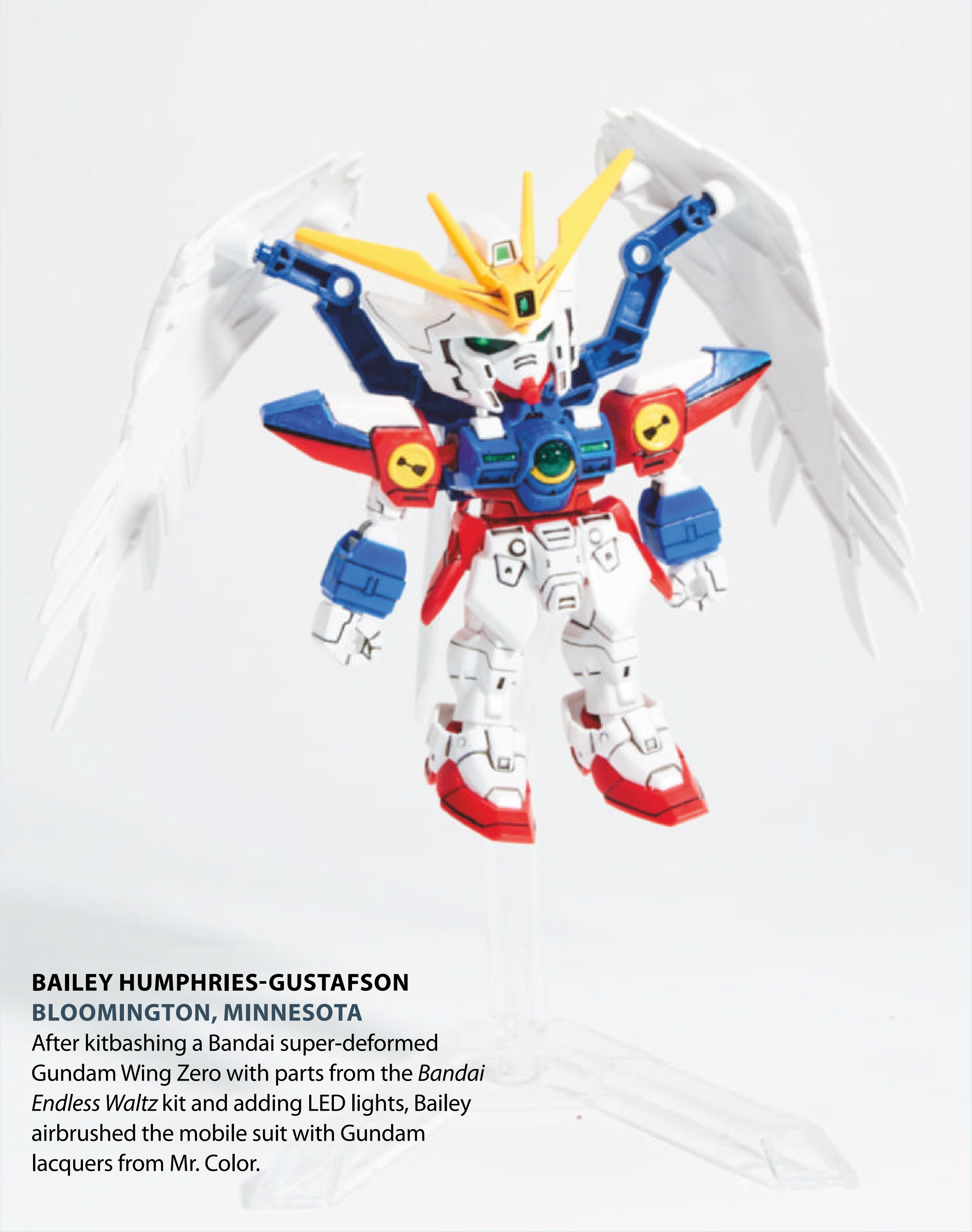
More than 300 models graced the contest tables at the annual NordicCon show in Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota, in September 2022. Jointly hosted by the several Minneapolis area clubs — Twin Cities Aero Historians, RPM Model Club, Oddball Modelers Group, Minnesota Military Figure Society, and Minnesota Scale Modelers, the event attracted builders from all over the upper Midwest. *FSM* editors Tim Kidwell and Aaron Skinner hit the road for the show and shot these photos of just some of the models on display. The 2023 show is scheduled for September 30.



DENNIS STRAND
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA
Dennis improved a Fonderie Miniatures 1/48 scale Handley Page Halifax Mk.III with resin engines, scratchbuilt cockpit details, and Master gun barrels. He painted the Royal Air Force bomber with Testors enamels, applying pre- and post-shading and raising the edges of the masks to give the camouflage pattern slightly soft edges.



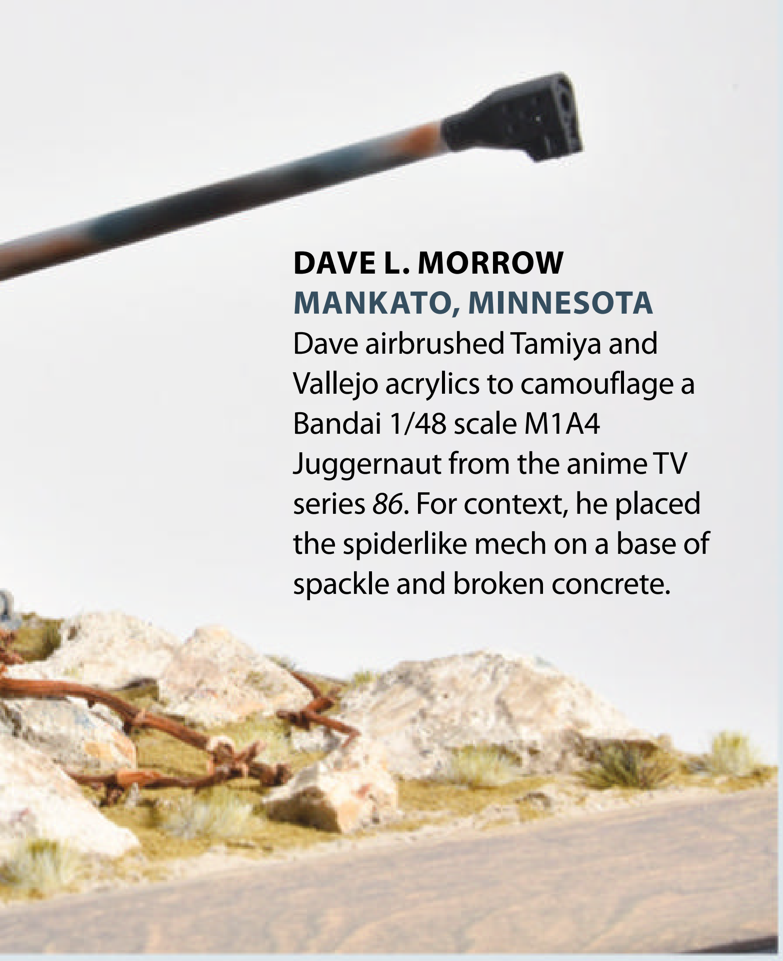
◀ **HADRIAN ZIELINSKI**
ST. MICHAEL, MINNESOTA
Hadrian built AFV Club's 1/35 scale SdKfz 11 3-ton halftrack out of the box and airbrushed it with Model Master acrylics. The 13-year-old hand-painted the seats and added chips and scratches to the vehicle.



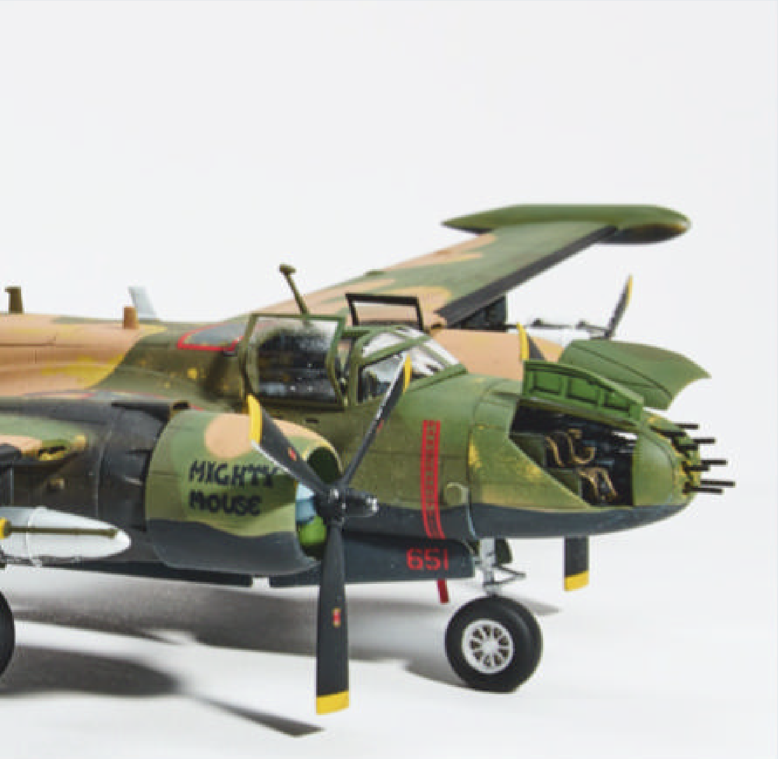
BAILEY HUMPHRIES-GUSTAFSON
BLOOMINGTON, MINNESOTA
After kitbashing a Bandai super-deformed Gundam Wing Zero with parts from the *Bandai Endless Waltz* kit and adding LED lights, Bailey airbrushed the mobile suit with Gundam lacquers from Mr. Color.

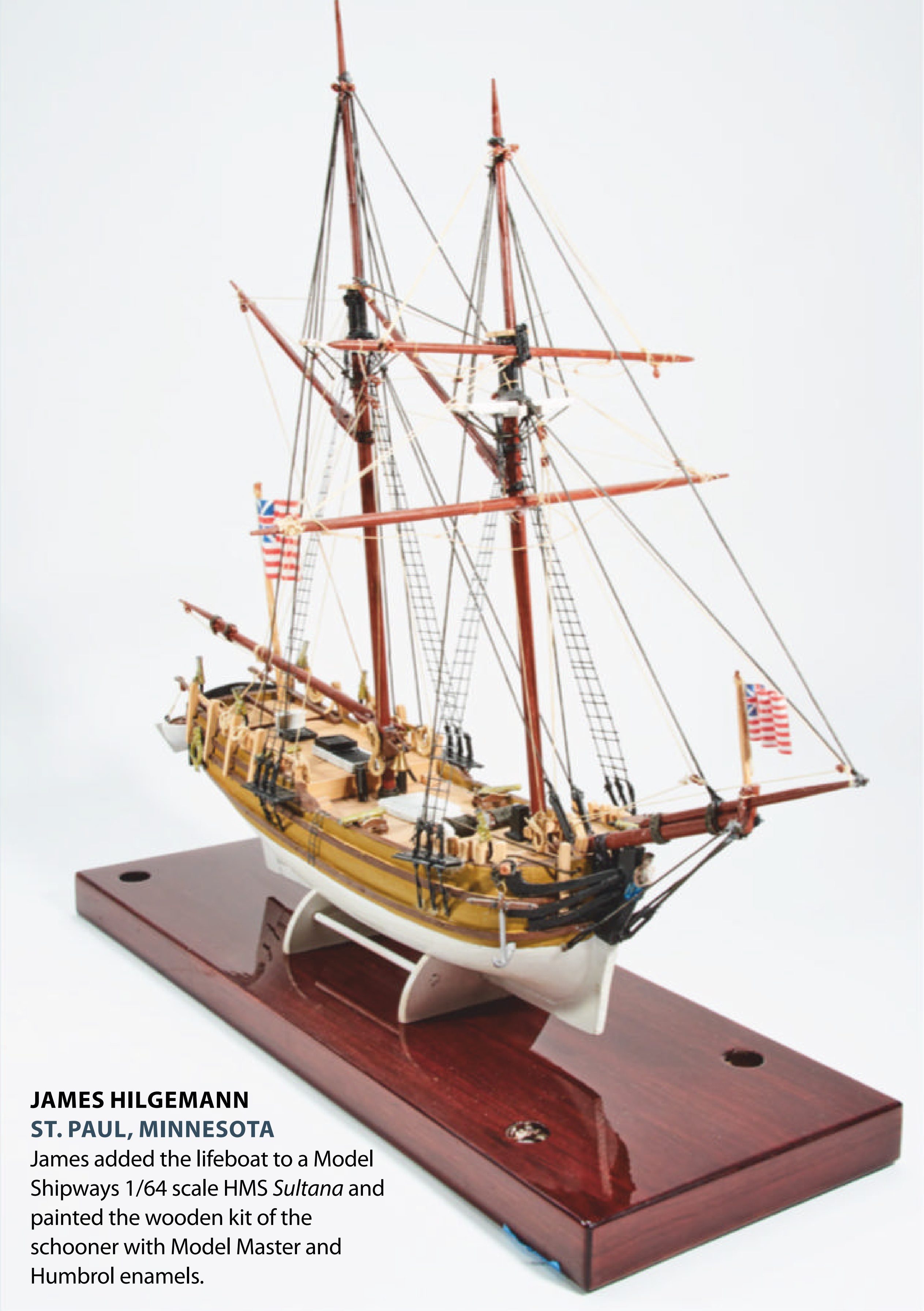
BILL READ
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA
Bill built Bronco's 1/48 scale MQ-1 Predator out of the box and painted it with Tamiya acrylics.

ROBERT HYMAN
BURNSVILLE, MINNESOTA
For context, Robert set Revell's 1/72 scale *PT-109* afloat on a resin seascape. He built the torpedo boat out of the box and painted it with Vallejo acrylics, post-shading the dark green into the light green for weathering.



DAVE L. MORROW
MANKATO, MINNESOTA
Dave airbrushed Tamiya and Vallejo acrylics to camouflage a Bandai 1/48 scale M1A4 Juggernaut from the anime TV series *86*. For context, he placed the spiderlike mech on a base of spackle and broken concrete.

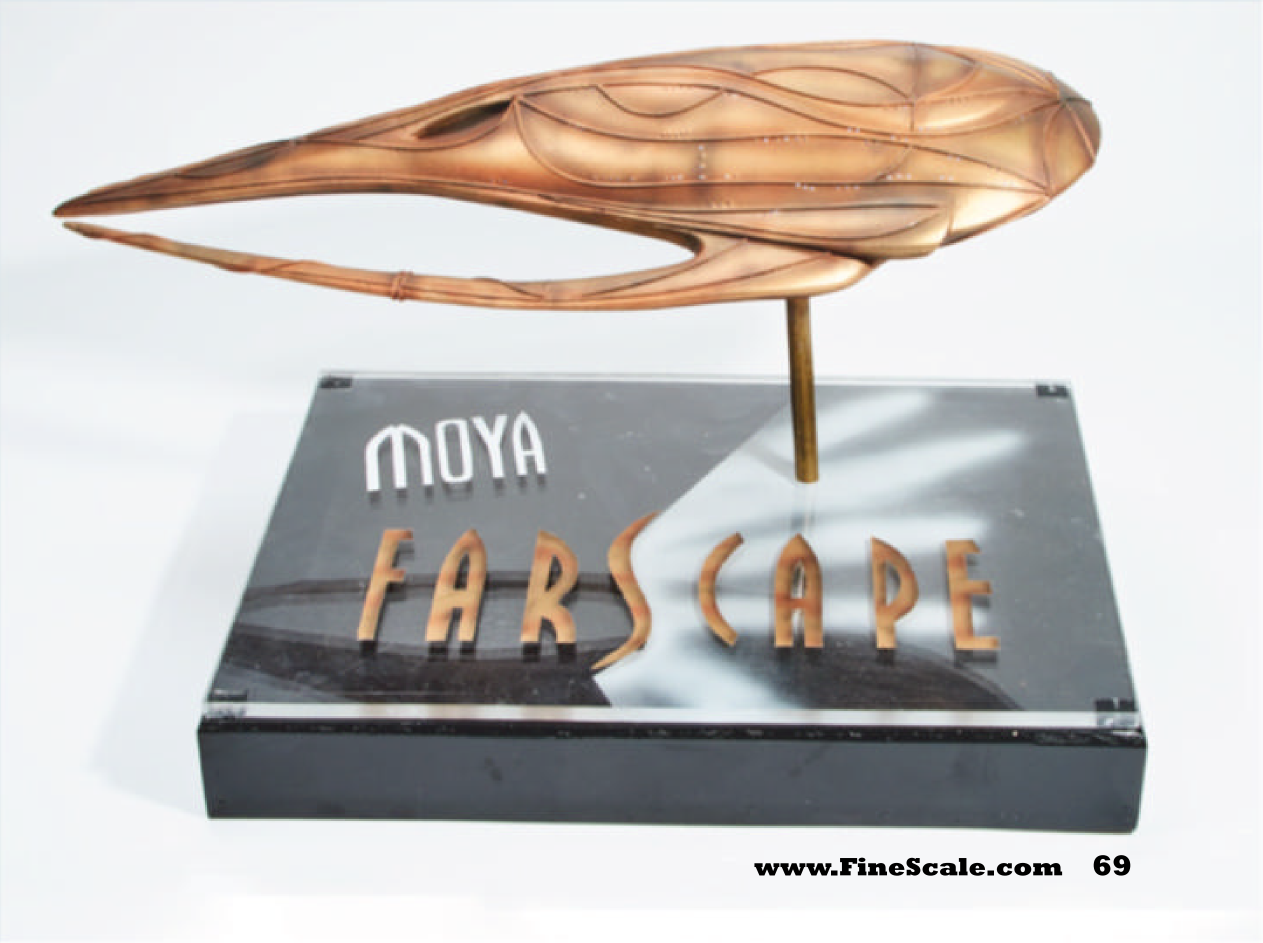


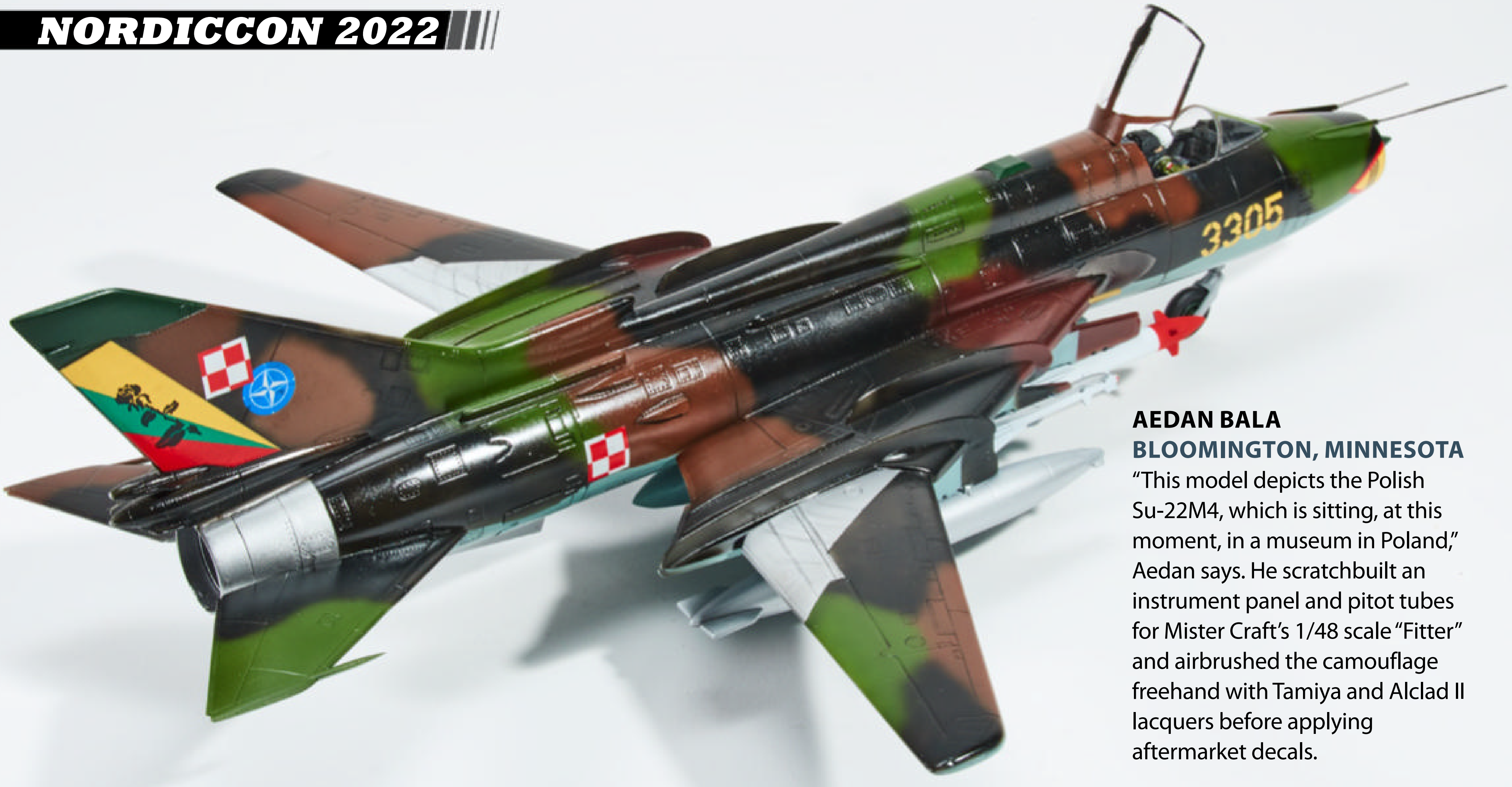


JAMES HILGEMANN
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA
James added the lifeboat to a Model Shipways 1/64 scale HMS *Sultana* and painted the wooden kit of the schooner with Model Master and Humbrol enamels.

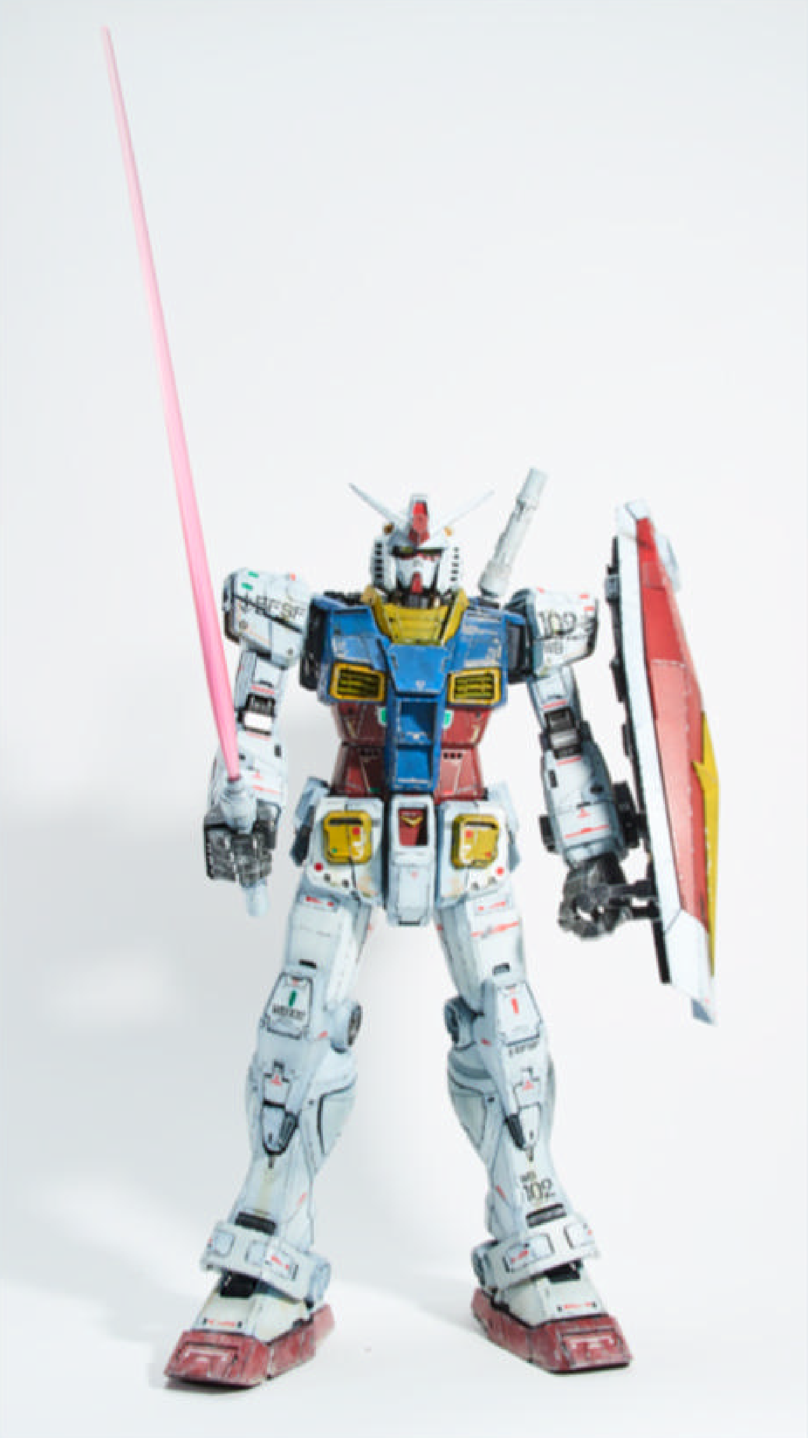
▲ JEFFREY CAMPBELL
EDEN PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA
Re-creating a Vietnam War interdiction aircraft, Jeffrey detailed an Italeri 1/72 scale B-26K with Quickboost resin engines, a CMK resin cockpit, a Black Dog gun nose, an Eduard bomb bay, and a Whirlybird rudder. He airbrushed the Counter Invader with Tamiya acrylics.

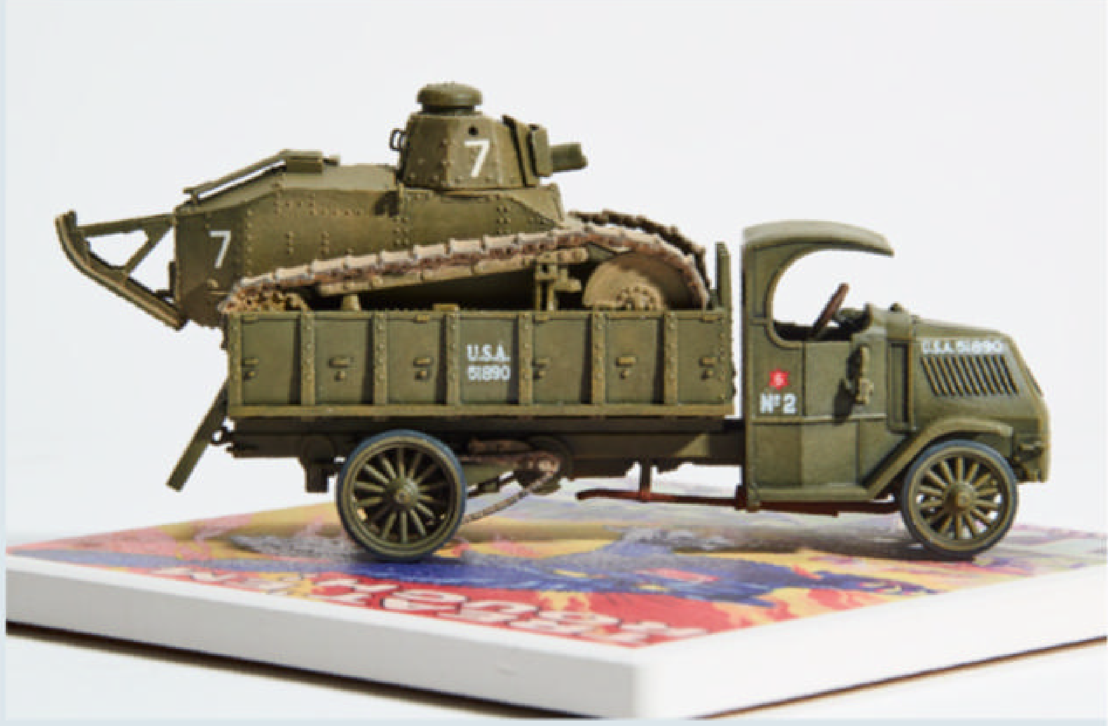
▶ JOHN CARLSON
MILACA, MINNESOTA
John's model of *Moya*, the sentient Leviathan spaceship from the TV show *Farscape*, started as a four-part 3D-printed kit, which he hollowed out to make room for fiber-optic lighting. After detailing the outside with styrene rod, he painted with Vallejo acrylics, starting with a black base and gradually adding metallic colors to produce shading.





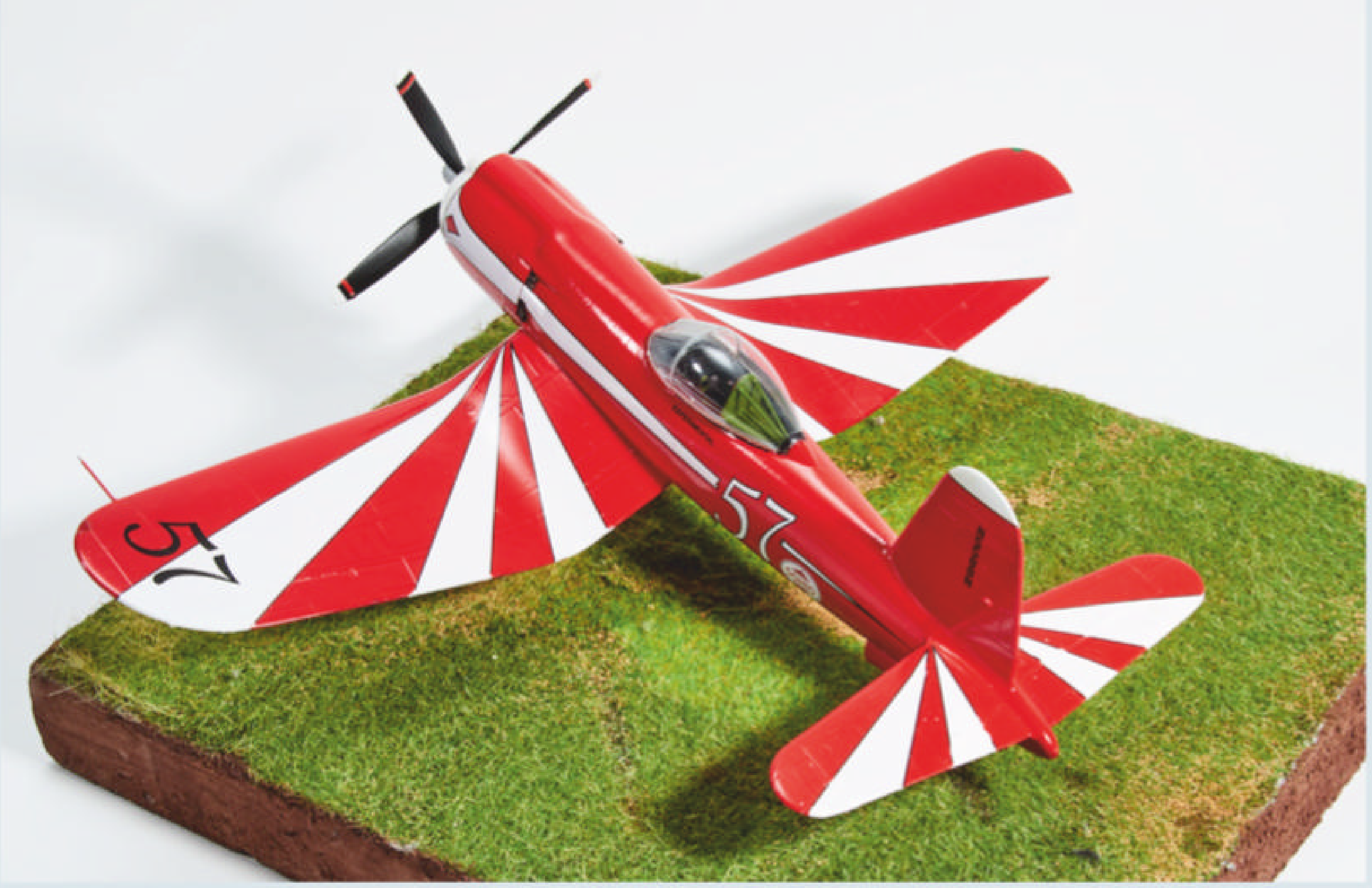
AEDAN BALA
BLOOMINGTON, MINNESOTA
"This model depicts the Polish Su-22M4, which is sitting, at this moment, in a museum in Poland," Aedan says. He scratchbuilt an instrument panel and pitot tubes for Mister Craft's 1/48 scale "Fitter" and airbrushed the camouflage freehand with Tamiya and Alclad II lacquers before applying aftermarket decals.





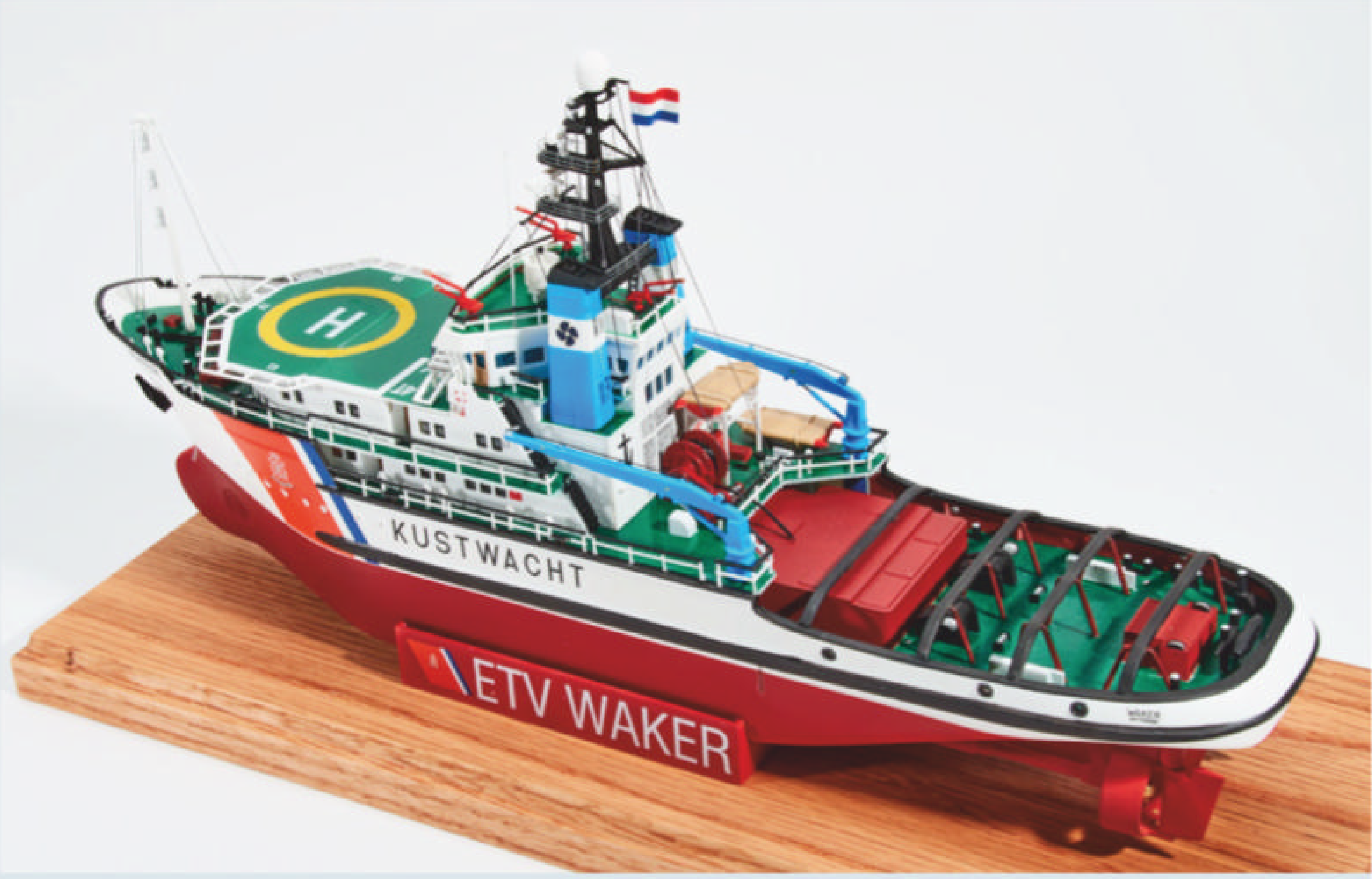
▲ EDWARD ST. DENIS
ROCHESTER, MINNESOTA
Combining 1/72 scale kits from RPM, Edward modeled a U.S. Army Mack AC truck hauling a Wisconsin National Guard 6-ton tank in 1927. He improved the tank with Steelworks resin tracks and detailed both vehicles with styrene and wire before applying Tamiya and Vallejo acrylics and Humbrol enamels.

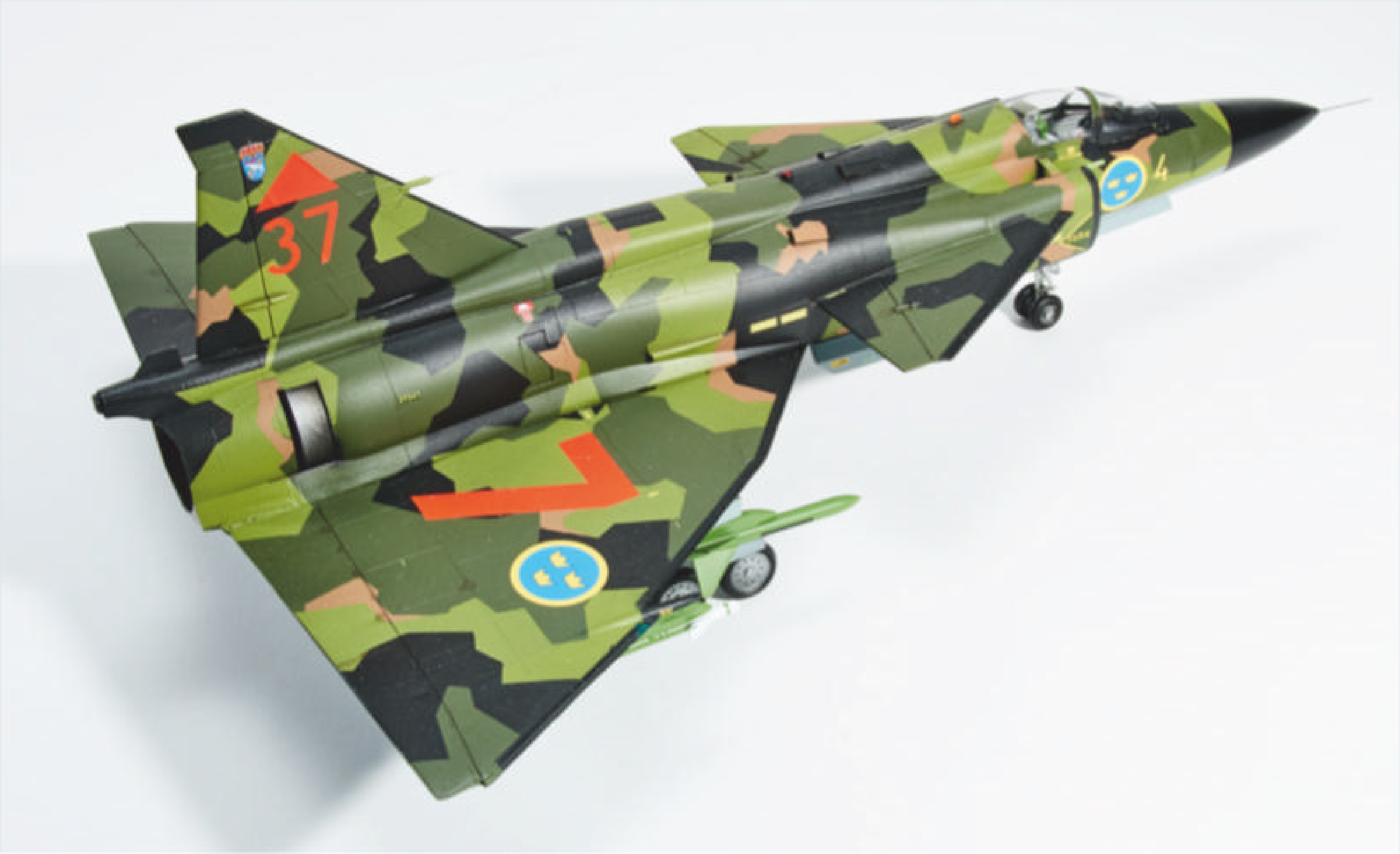
◀ STEVE SHAFFER
HASTINGS, MINNESOTA
Going big, Steve finished Bandai's Perfect Grade 1/60 scale RX-78-2 Gundam with MR Paint lacquers over Mr. Finishing Surfacer 1500 Black. To weather the mobile suit, he applied Tamiya pastels and washes.



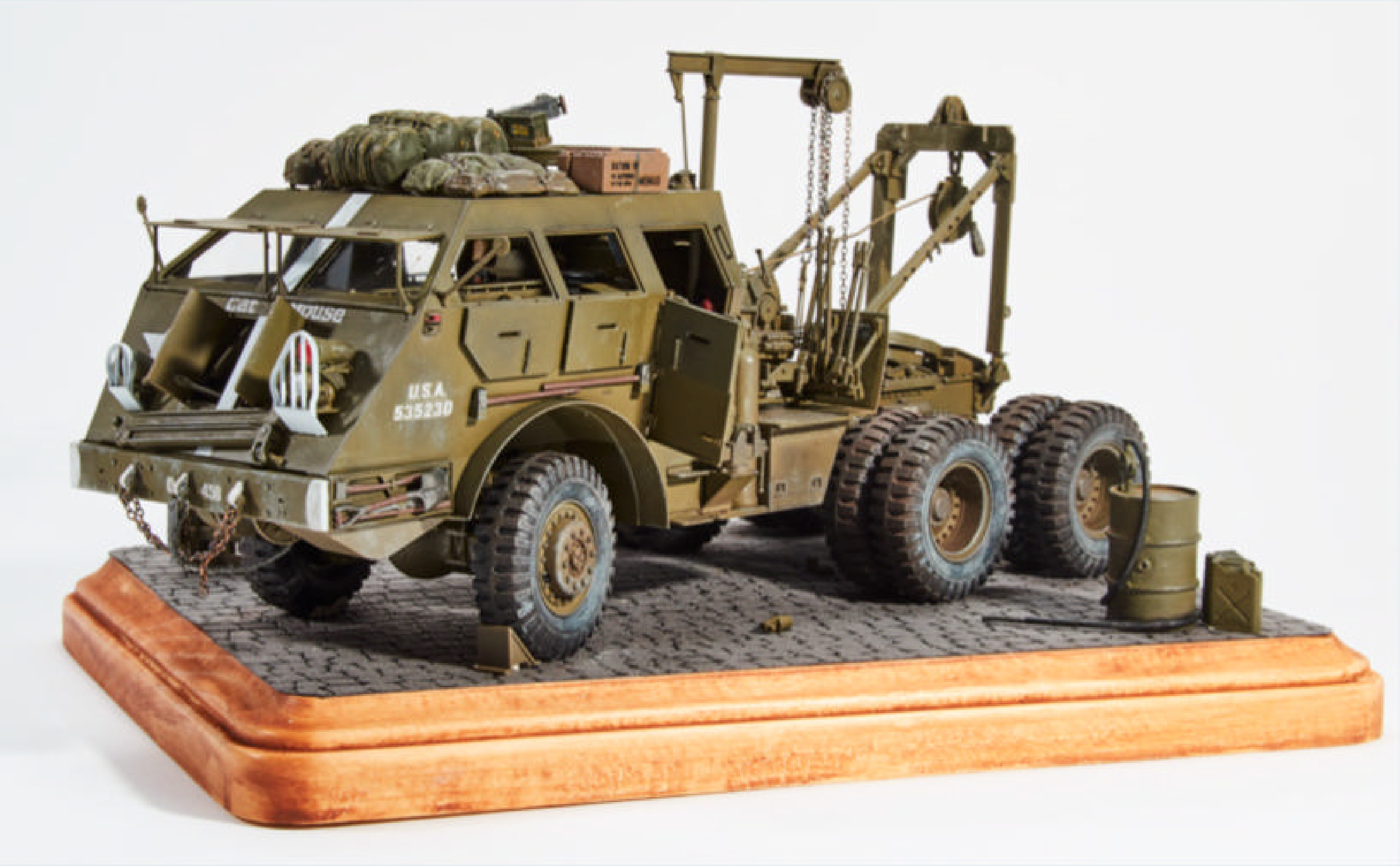
◀ BOB MADERICH II
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA
Bob built Special Hobby's 1/48 scale F2G Super Corsair race plane out of the box and painted it with Tamiya colors. Because it is a racer, he omitted weathering, preferring to keep it clean and fresh for the starting line.

▶ PATRICK EDWARDS
NORTHFIELD, MINNESOTA
"I prefer to use an airbrush when possible, so I go through a lot of tape," Patrick says. He painted Revell Germany's 1/200 scale Netherlands coast guard ETV *Waker* with Tamiya acrylics and detailed the emergency towing vessel with netting on the helo deck along with antennas and rigging.



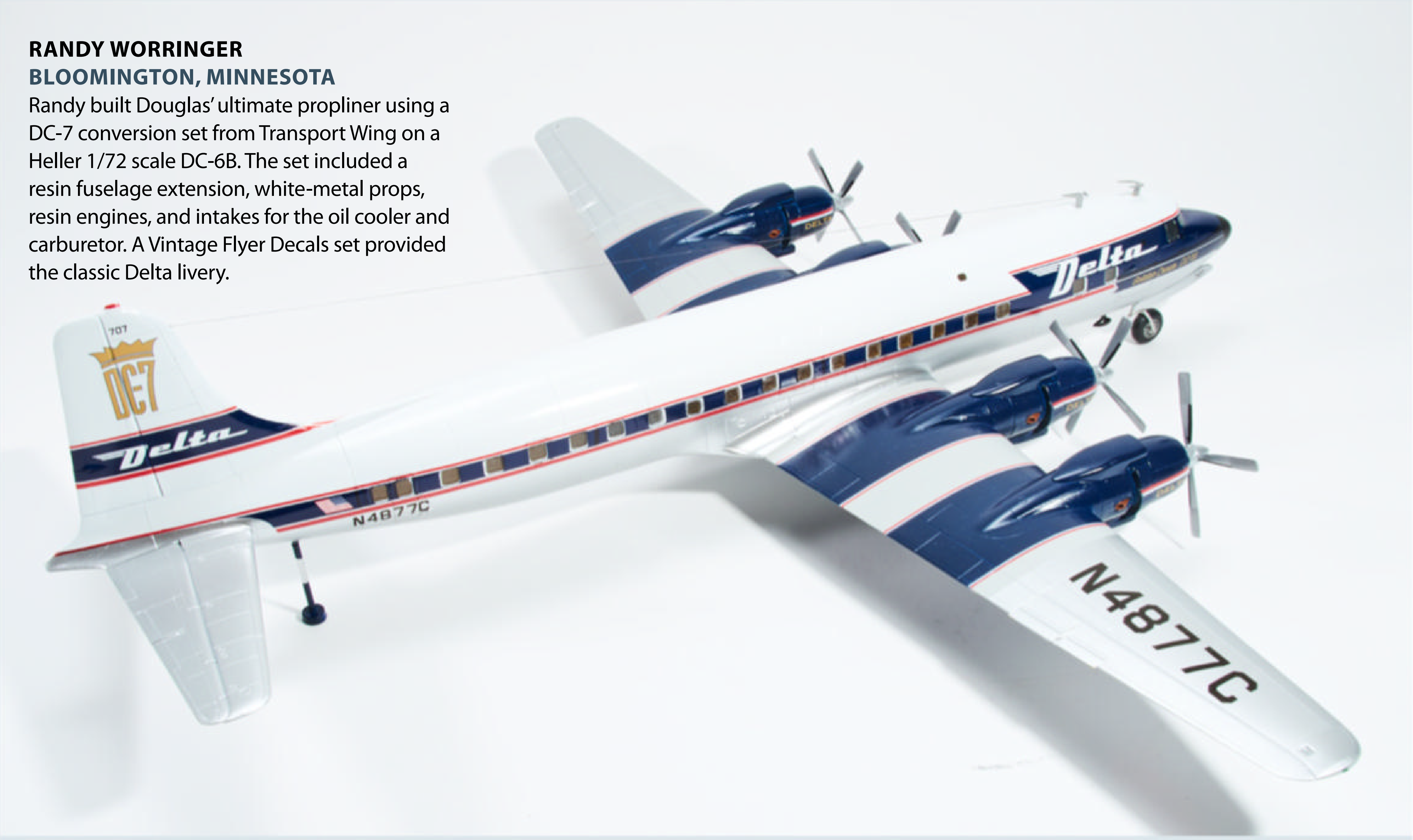


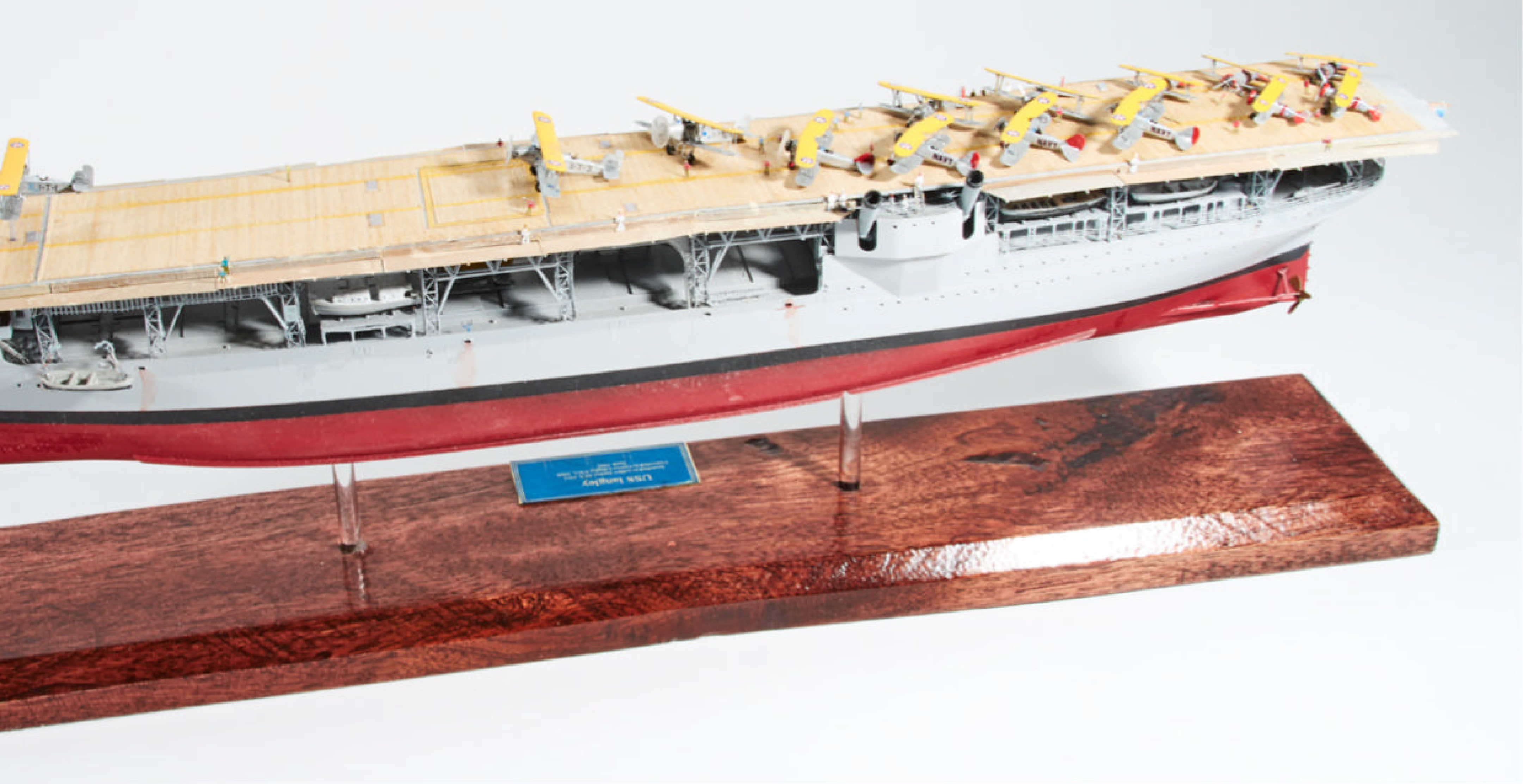
◀ DAVE PERZEL
ROSEMOUNT, MINNESOTA
Dave replaced the simple cockpit in an ESCI 1/48 scale Saab JA37 Viggen with resin from Maestro Models. He then applied the stunning Swedish splinter camo using DN Models masks and Tamiya acrylics.



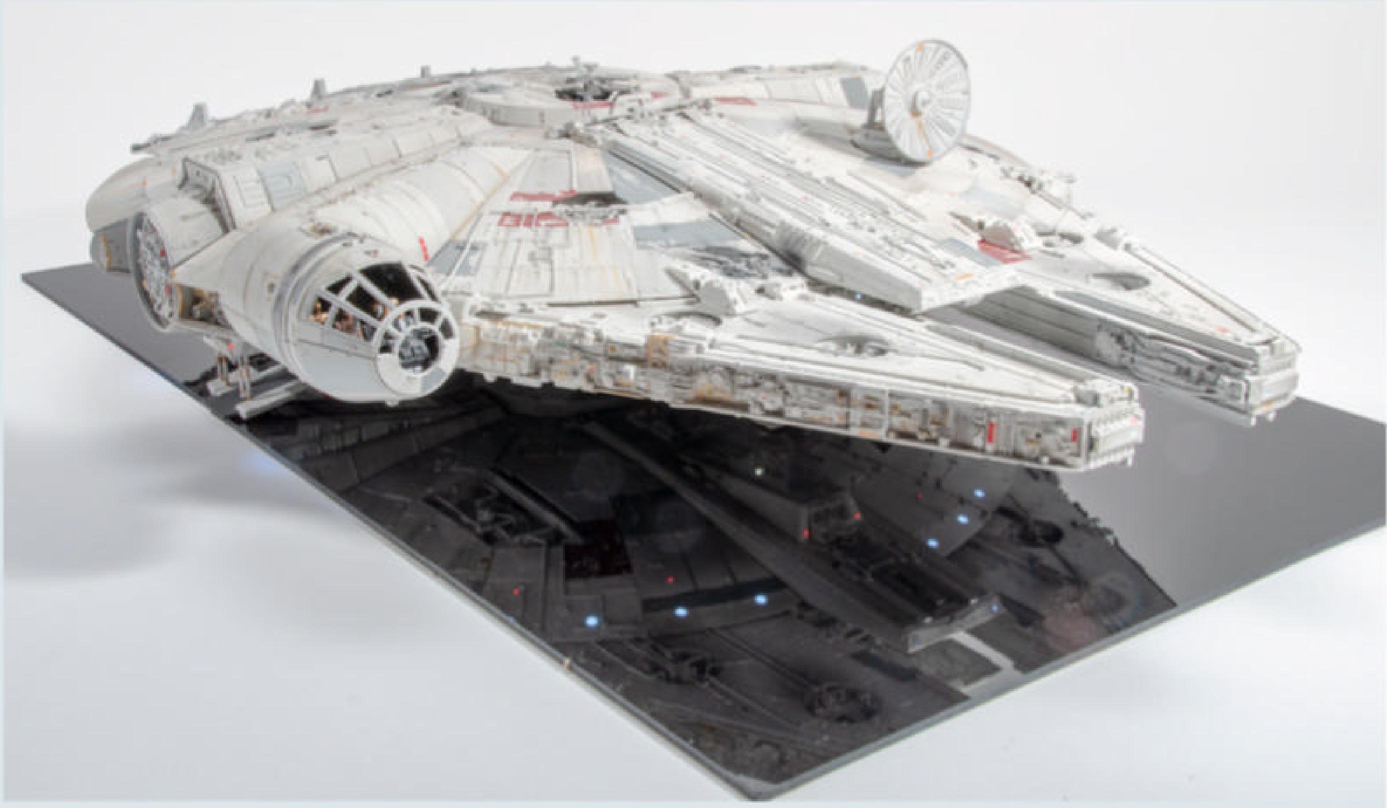
▲ JIM HENCINSKI
ROCHESTER, MINNESOTA
In addition to the other stowage on his 1/35 scale M26 armored tank recovery vehicle, Jim hung a captured German bicycle from an MB plastic and photo-etched metal kit from the spare wheel. He base-coated the Tamiya kit with Tamiya Olive Drab from a spray can and hand-painted details with acrylics.

RANDY WORRINGER
BLOOMINGTON, MINNESOTA
Randy built Douglas' ultimate propliner using a DC-7 conversion set from Transport Wing on a Heller 1/72 scale DC-6B. The set included a resin fuselage extension, white-metal props, resin engines, and intakes for the oil cooler and carburetor. A Vintage Flyer Decals set provided the classic Delta livery.

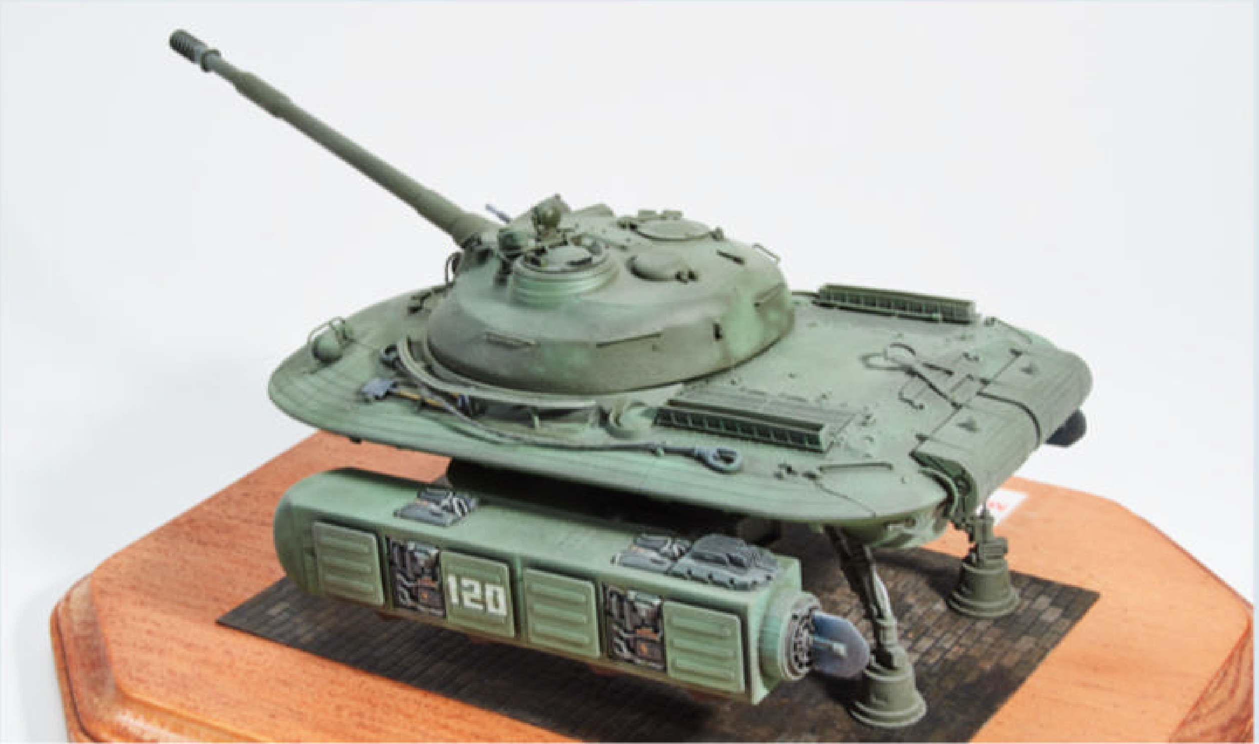




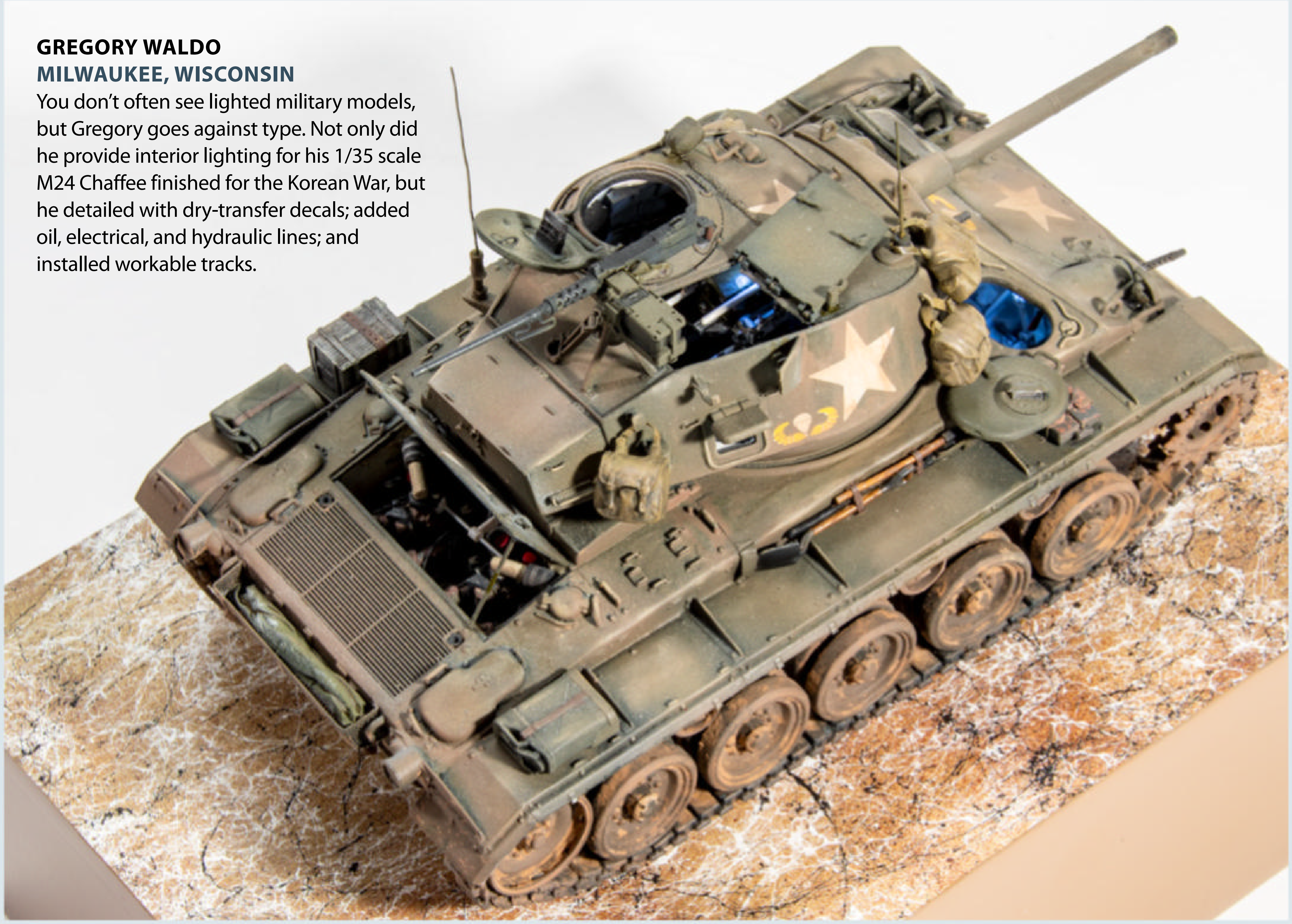
▲ DON STAUFFER
COON RAPIDS, MINNESOTA
To show USS *Langley*, during flight operations, Don added photo-etched metal details to a Trumpeter 1/350 scale kit and extra decals for the air wing. He painted with enamels and gray Tamiya Fine Surface Primer, which serves as the hull camouflage color.



▶ ANDREW HILL
COTTAGE GROVE, MINNESOTA
To mimic the original 5-foot filming miniature of the *Millennium Falcon* as it appeared in later movies in the original *Star Wars* trilogy, Andrew added custom landing, running, and headlights to a Bandai 1/72 scale Perfect Grade kit. He painted the modified YT-1300 freighter with Tamiya and Testors Model Master acrylics and weathered it with Tamiya pastels, fine markers, and watercolor pencils.



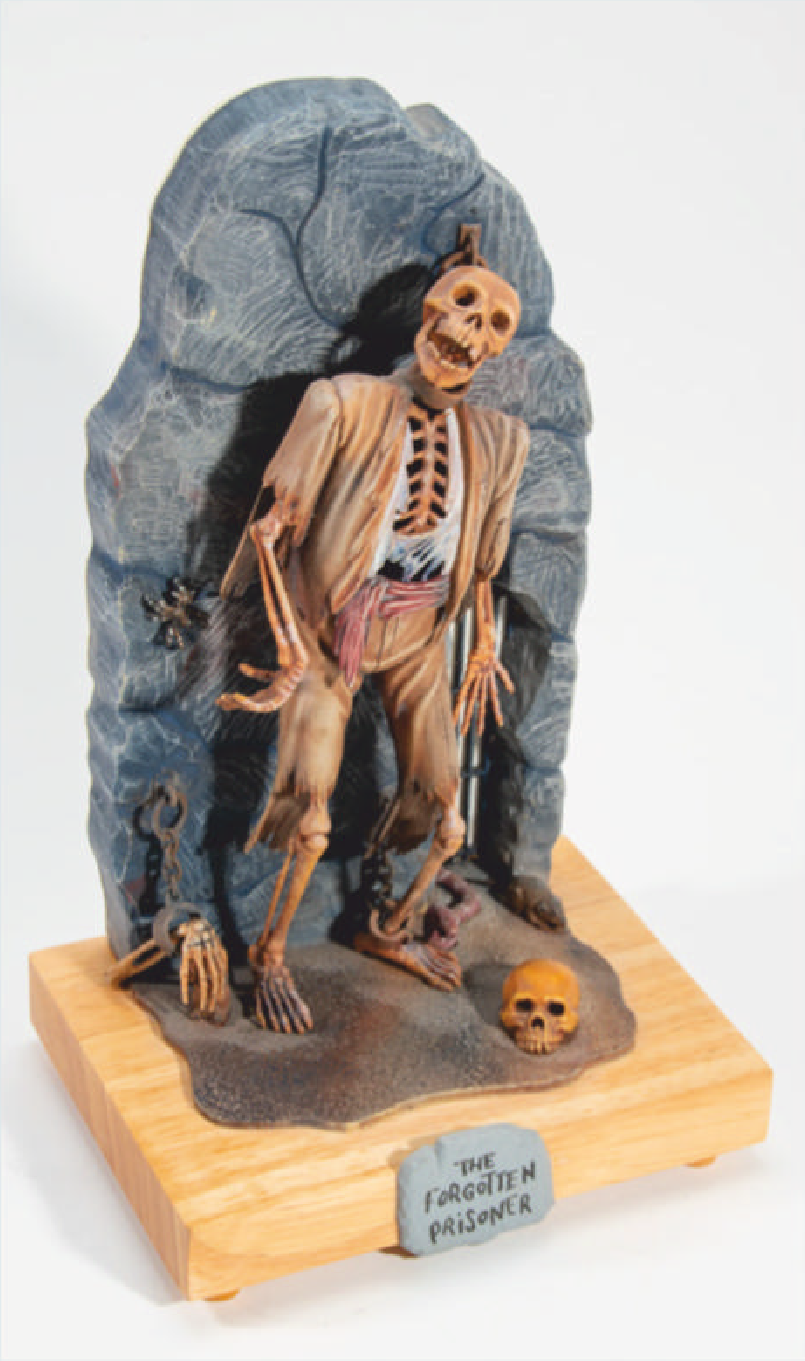
◀ MARK JACQUES
COON RAPIDS, MINNESOTA
"This special purpose tank was developed to fight in all terrain conditions in the year 2145 AD," says Mark. He kitbashed the 1/35 scale hypothetical Object 20279 ground-effect vehicle with parts from a Takom Object 279 tank, a Hasegawa Maschinen Krieger kit, and bits from his spares box.

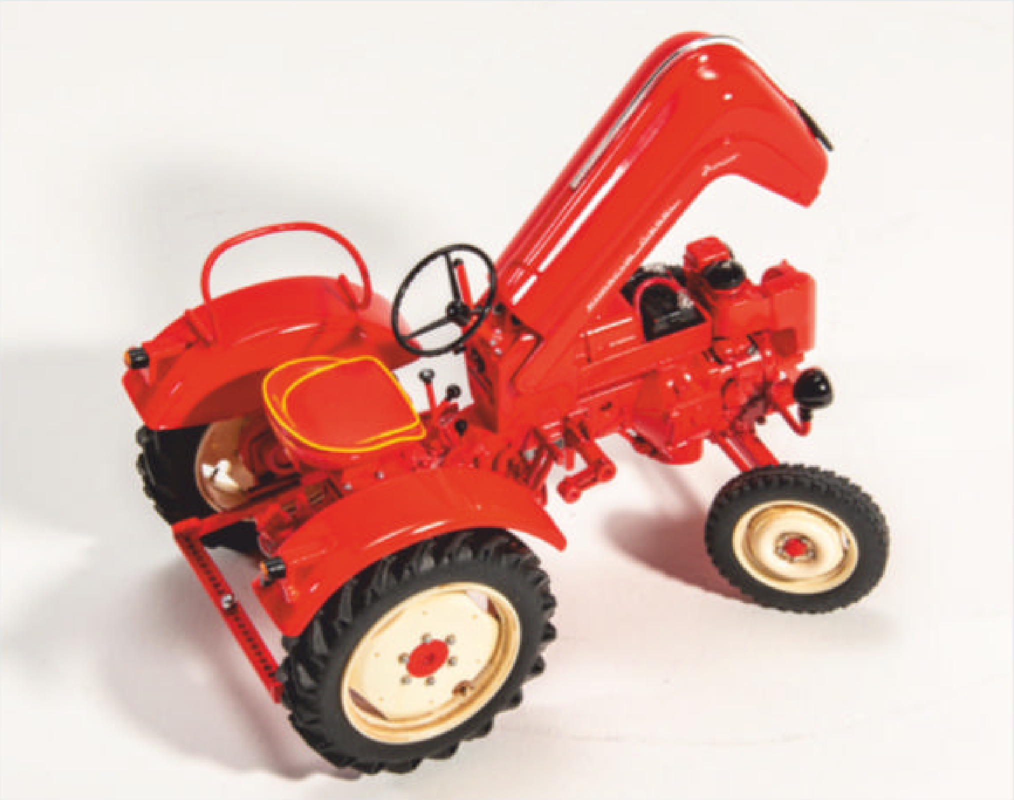


GREGORY WALDO
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN
You don't often see lighted military models, but Gregory goes against type. Not only did he provide interior lighting for his 1/35 scale M24 Chaffee finished for the Korean War, but he detailed with dry-transfer decals; added oil, electrical, and hydraulic lines; and installed workable tracks.

2nd Annual Midwest Scale Madness

Midwest Scale Madness (MSM) returned to Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin, for its second annual scale model show and swap meet in September 2022. With a bigger turnout than the previous year, 70 modelers displayed 470 models. As with any show, *FSM* can't shoot everything. However, we did tag models that caught our attention and also asked modelers to bring us the builds they were most proud of that we hadn't seen before. The next MSM is Sept. 9, 2023.





▲ BILL COOK

JANESVILLE, WISCONSIN

Bill painted his Revell 1/25 scale Porsche Junior 108 tractor body Tamiya Bright Red and wheels Testors Radome Tan. He scratchbuilt all of the dash details; wired the injector, starter, and battery box; made the pedals from brass; and piped the seat with yellow wire. Cool and unusual, and we like it!

◀ MICKEY KRAUSE

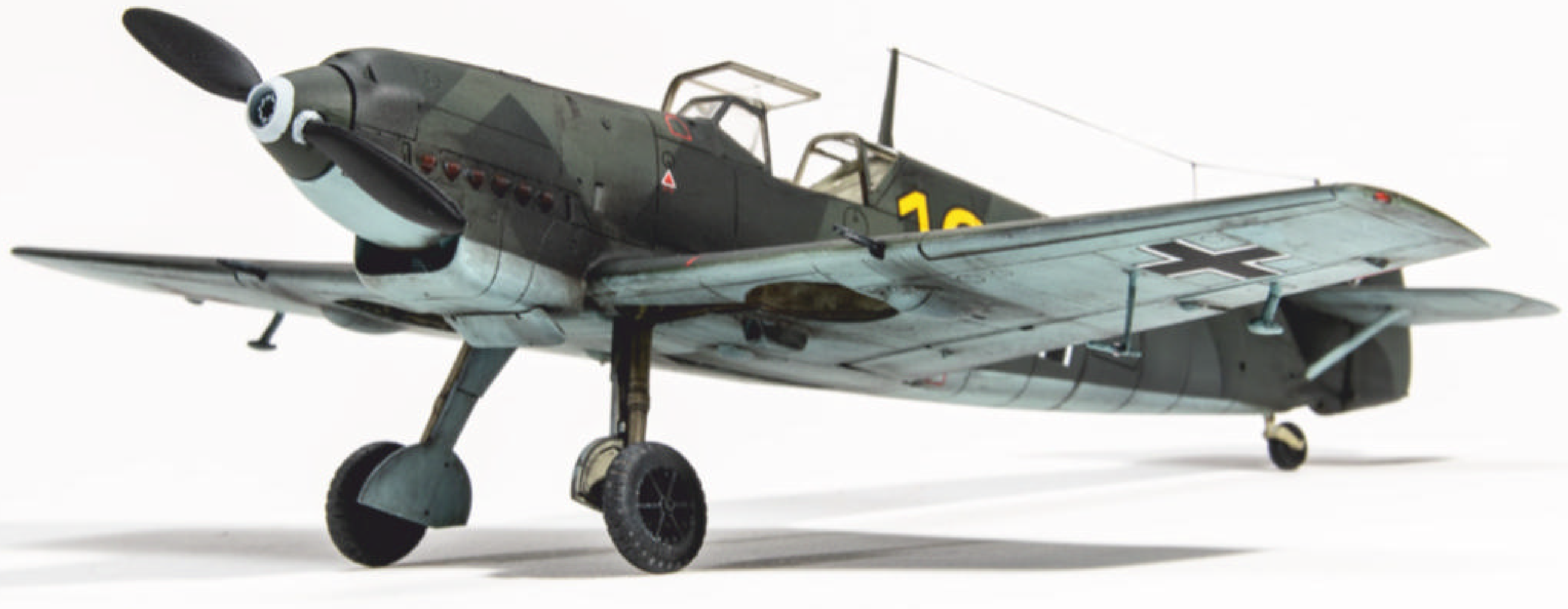
BERLIN, WISCONSIN

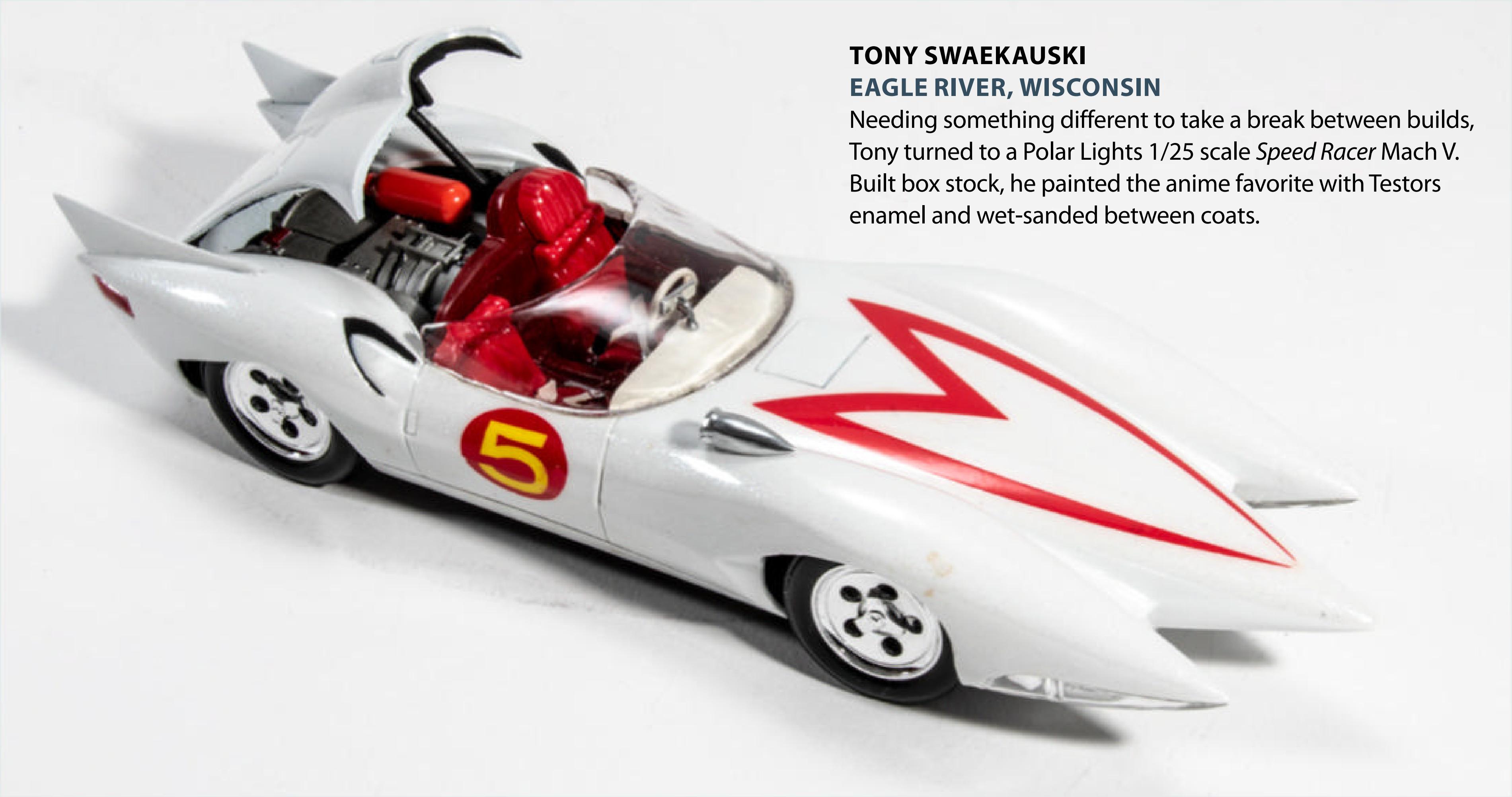
Mickey found an Aurora 1/8 scale The Forgotten Prisoner kit in a basement, rescued it, and restored it to all its glory. He primed the figure and then went to work with artist oils. The final touch was a wooden base for a refined appearance.

MAREK ROGAL

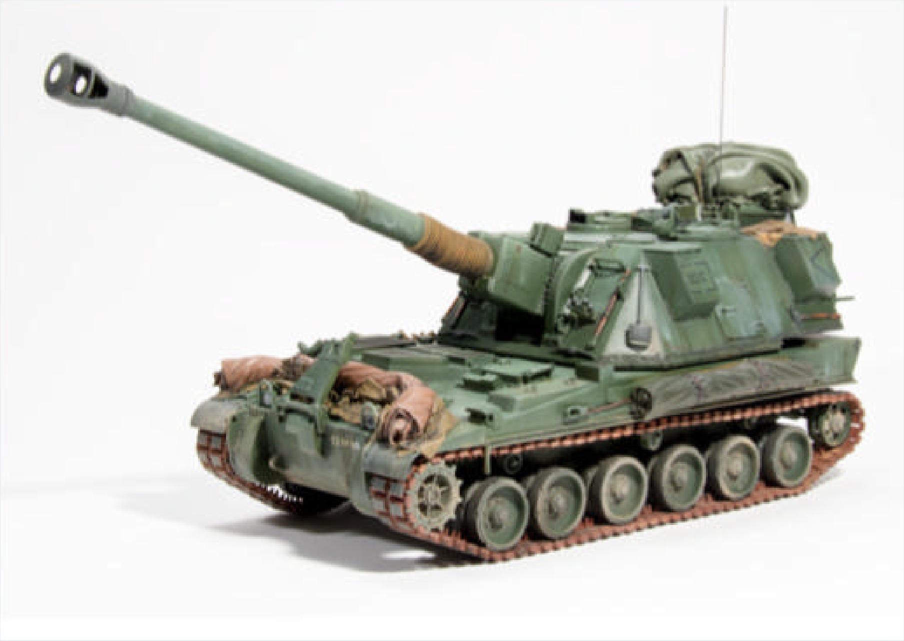
MADISON, WISCONSIN

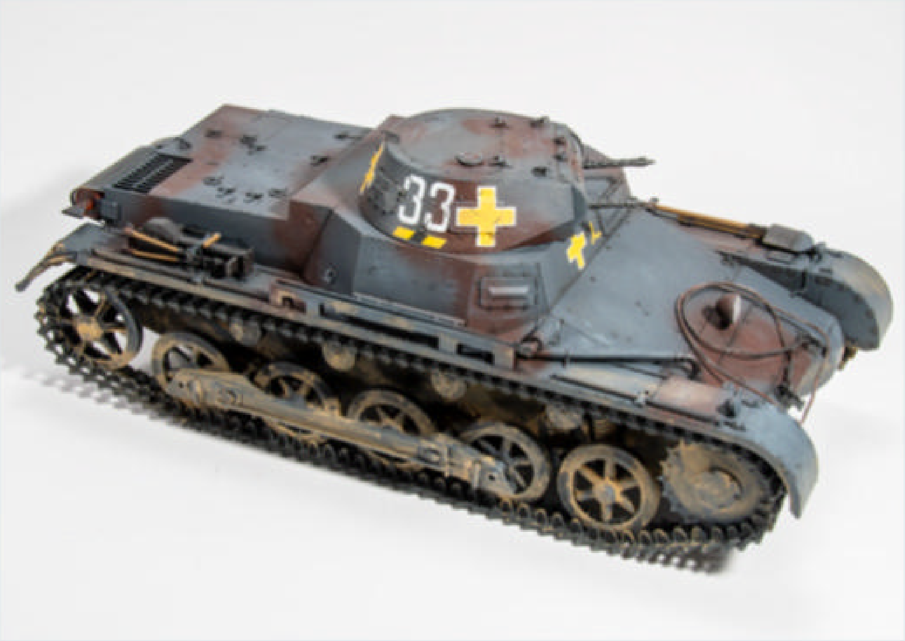
Marek's Modelsvit 1/48 scale German Messerschmitt Bf 109C-3 wears markings for September 1939 during the Polish campaign. He built the model out of the box because, as Marek says, it came "with more than was needed." Marek used Stynylrez primer, Mr. Color lacquers, and VMS clears.





TONY SWAEKAUSKI
EAGLE RIVER, WISCONSIN
Needing something different to take a break between builds, Tony turned to a Polar Lights 1/25 scale *Speed Racer* Mach V. Built box stock, he painted the anime favorite with Testors enamel and wet-sanded between coats.

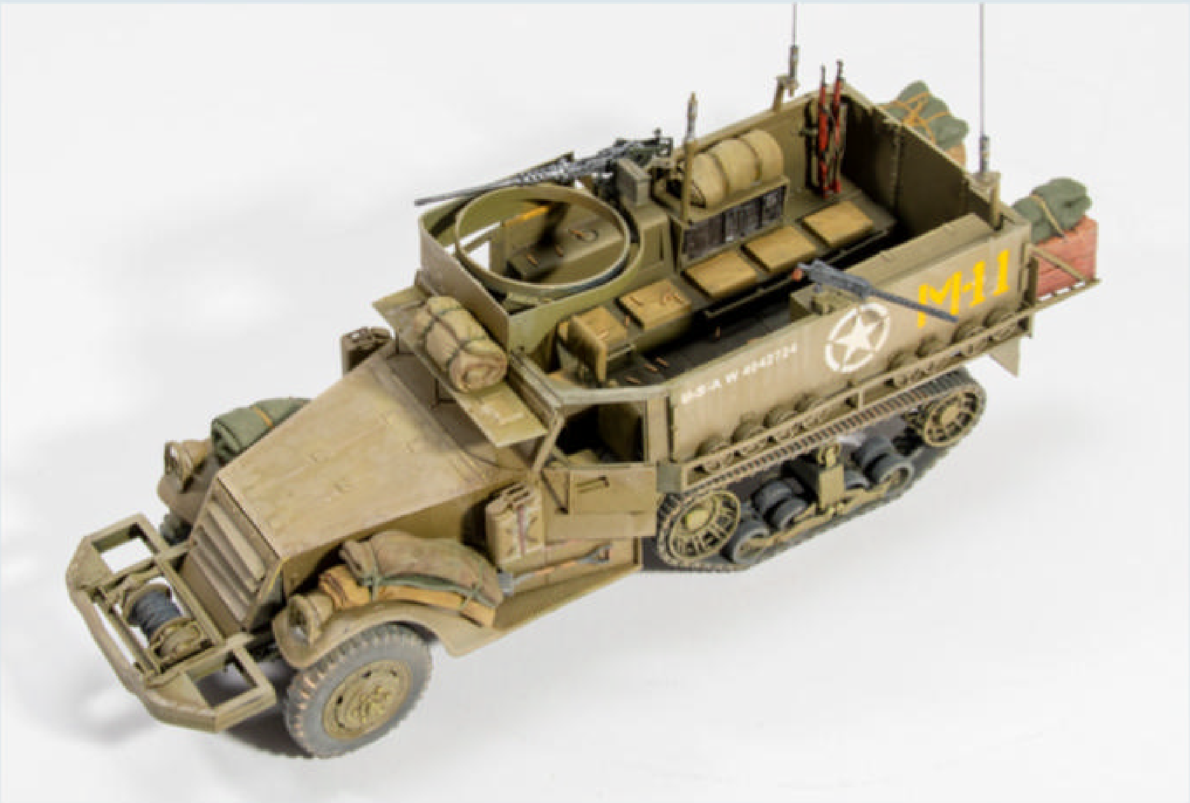




▲ **BRET DILLENBECK**
JANESVILLE, WISCONSIN
Bret went beyond Trumpeter's box-stock kit with his 1/35 scale AS-90, bringing in a turned aluminum barrel, resin stowage, and metal tracks. He pre- and post-shaded with Tamiya acrylics and then used UMS pigments to dirty up the mobile gun.

▲ **RICK HOFFMAN**
RACINE, WISCONSIN
Takom's 1/16 scale PzKpfw I Ausf B attracted Rick's attention for a big-scale project. He built it out-of-the-box and painted with Tamiya acrylics throughout. He airbrushed the camouflage freehand, popped details with a pinwash, and dirtied the tracks and hull with pigments.

► **JOHN TOKAREWICH**
BARTLETT, WISCONSIN
This gorgeous Accurate Miniatures 1/48 scale F3F-1 is marked for the VF-5B Section 5 Leader, USS *Ranger*, in early 1937. John upgraded with Eduard photo-etched metal details, rigged with E-Z Line, and airbrushed the bright scheme with Model Master acrylics.



◀ CHRIS VALENTI

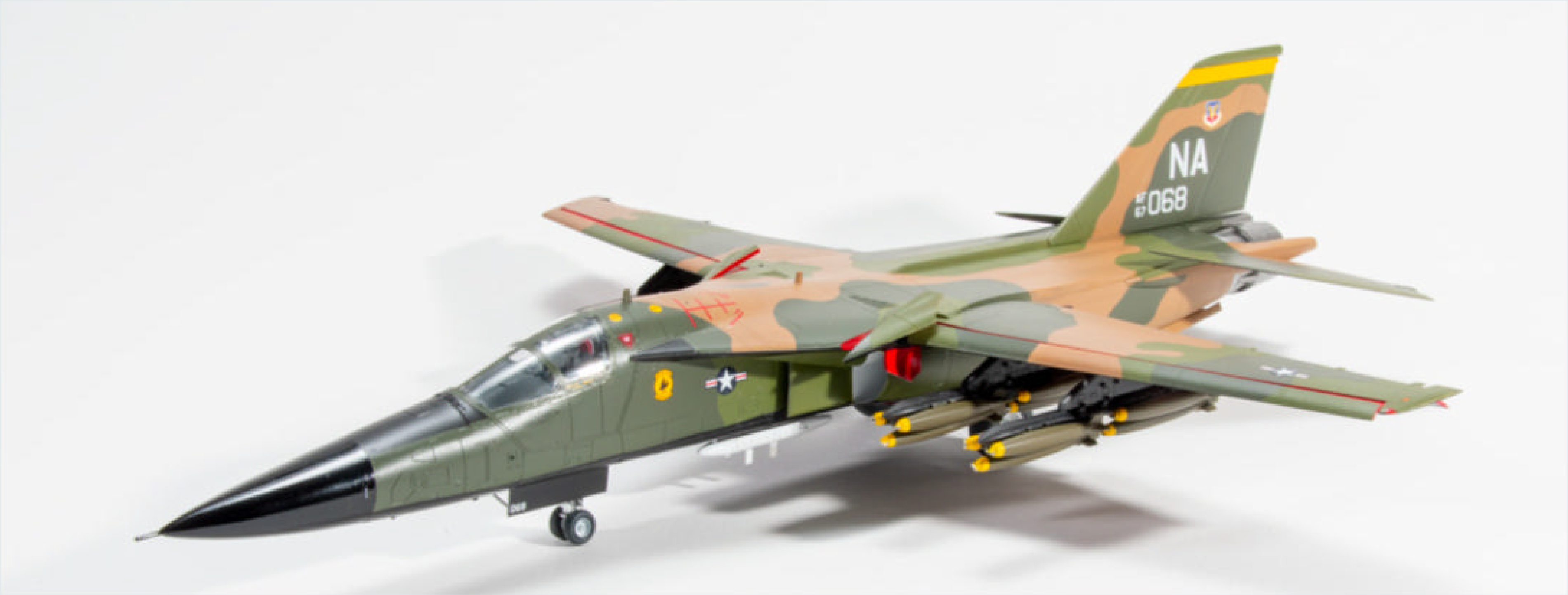
HAWTHORN WOODS, ILLINOIS

Black Dog stowage helped round out Chris' Dragon 1/35 scale M3A1 halftrack. He achieved his vision with Vallejo and AK Interactive acrylic paints and enamel washes. Pigments provided some dust to make the vehicle look appropriately used.

▼ PAUL BOYER

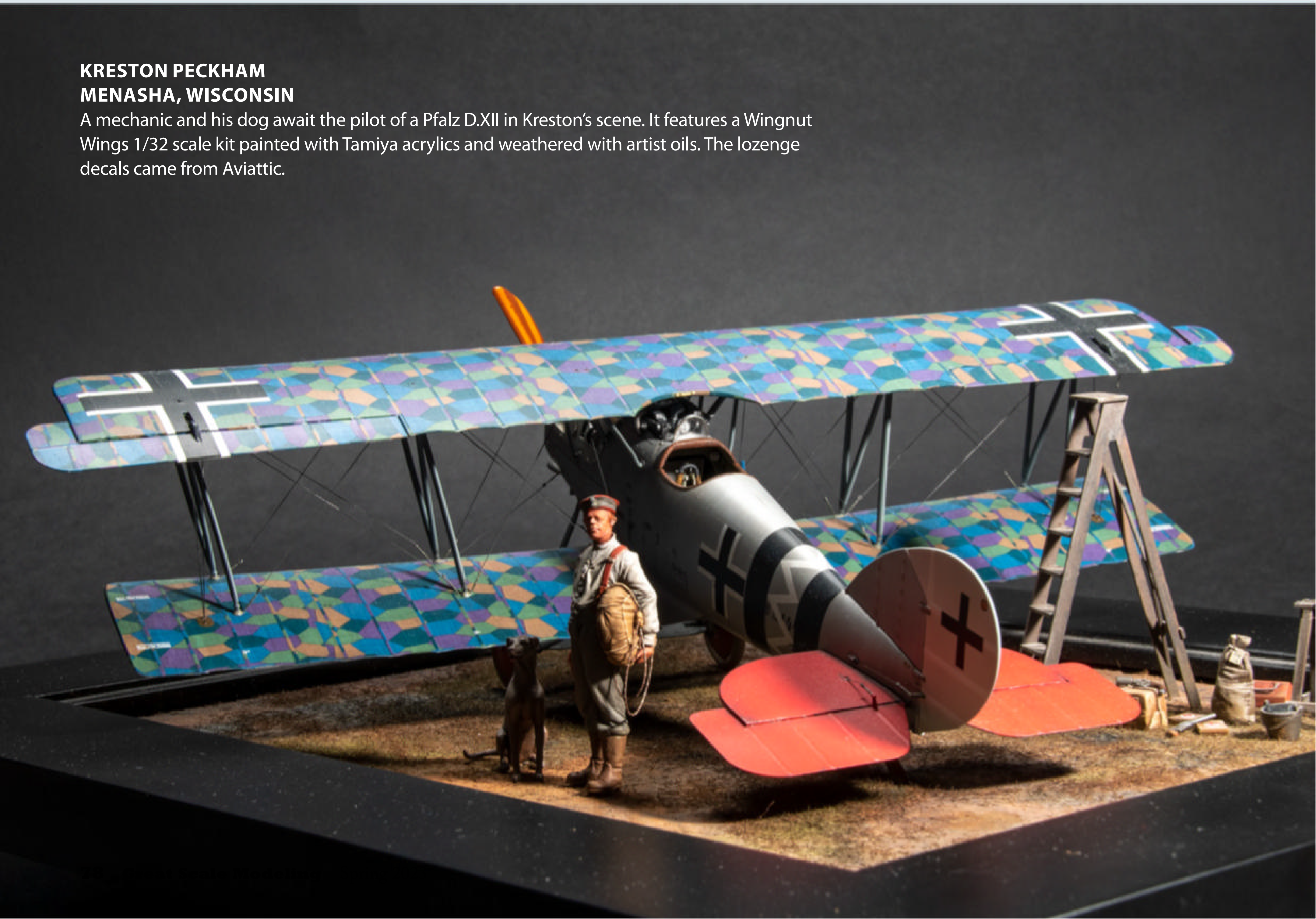
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

Paul, a former *FineScale Modeler* senior editor, unveiled his freshly finished Hasegawa 1/72 scale F-111 Aardvark. The camouflage is Mr. Color lacquers sprayed through a Paasche H airbrush. Paul used pre-cut vinyl masks, Caracal decals, and aftermarket bombs to complete his Takhli-based 474th Tactical Fighter Wing supersonic combat aircraft.



Military Miniatures Society of Illinois Chicago Show

The Chicago Marriott in Schaumburg, Illinois, played host to the 47th annual Military Miniature Society of Illinois contest in October, 2022. As always, hundreds of beautifully painted historical miniatures — from the Middle Ages to the modern era — dioramas, and scale model vehicles loaded the tables. The sci-fi and fantasy offerings continued to astound, too. The 2023 event is scheduled for Oct. 20-21. See Military-Miniature-Society-of-Illinois.com/2023-Chicago-Show for information.



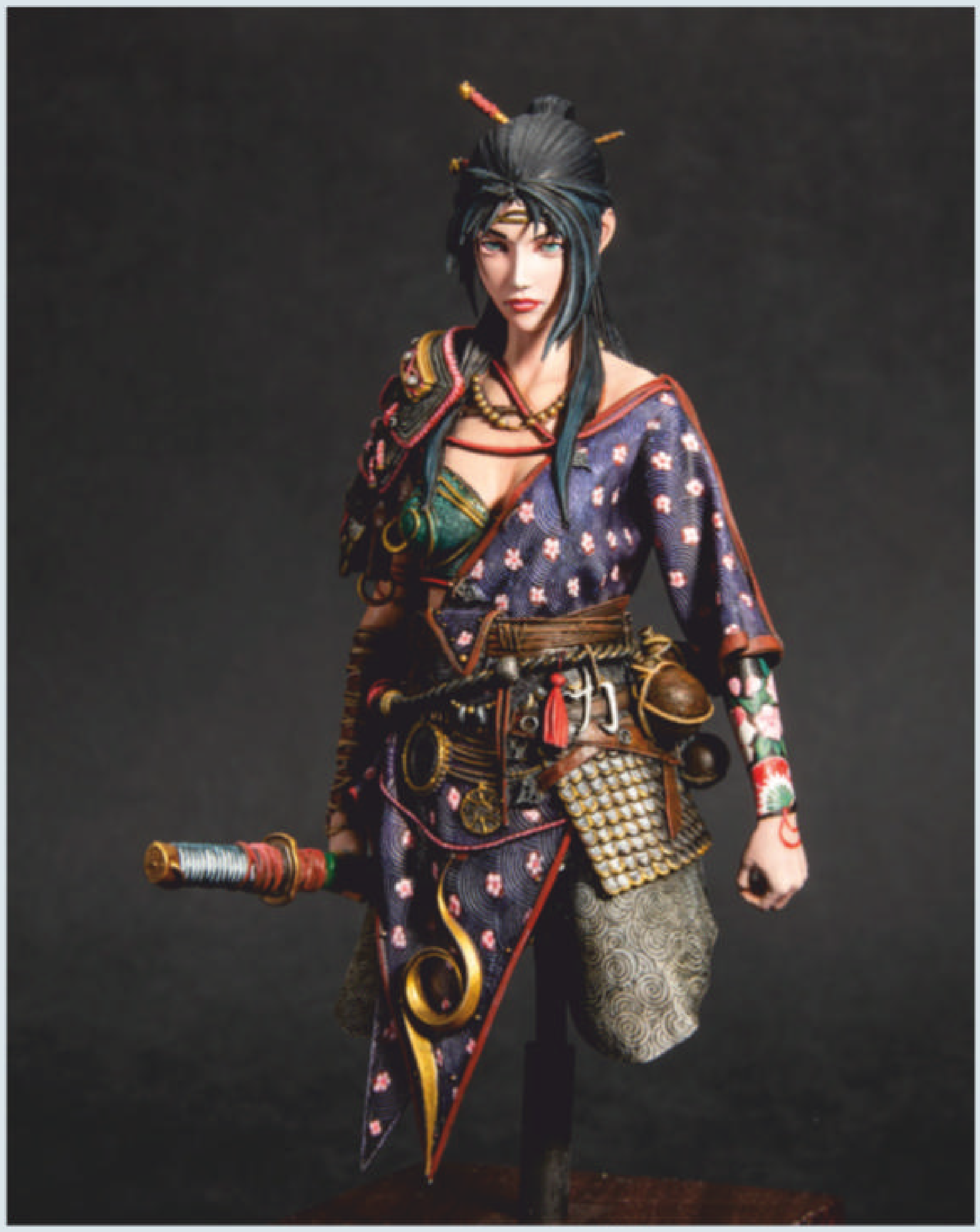
KRESTON PECKHAM
MENASHA, WISCONSIN

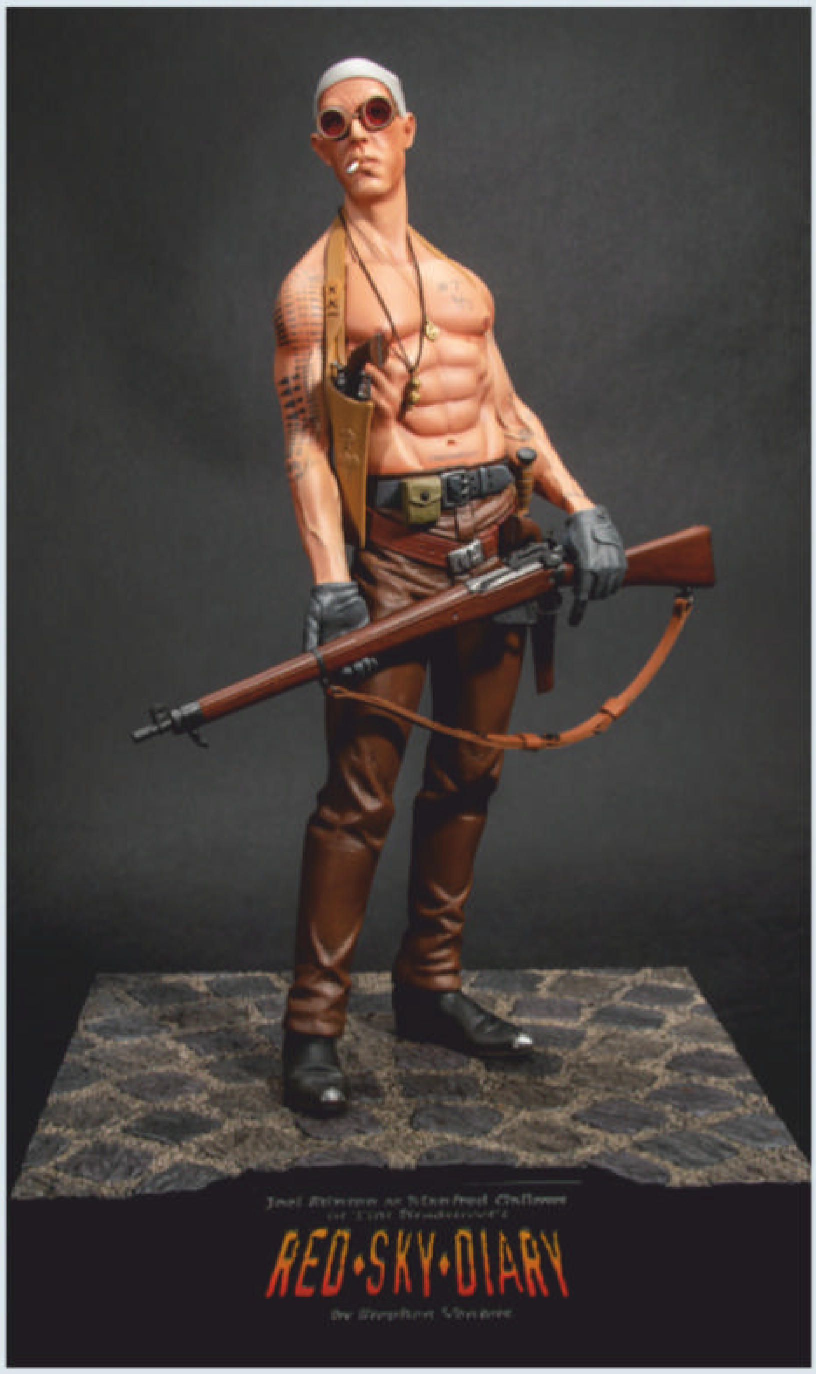
A mechanic and his dog await the pilot of a Pfalz D.XII in Kreston's scene. It features a Wingnut Wings 1/32 scale kit painted with Tamiya acrylics and weathered with artist oils. The lozenge decals came from Aviattic.

▶ J.C. McDANIEL

LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

J.C.'s astounding Journeyman Miniatures Shinobi instantly drew our attention. He airbrushed zenithal pre-shading before going to work with Scale 75 paints and hand brushes. He says there are easily 40-50 extremely thin layers of paint on the face, and he illustrated, freehand, the tattoo on the right arm.

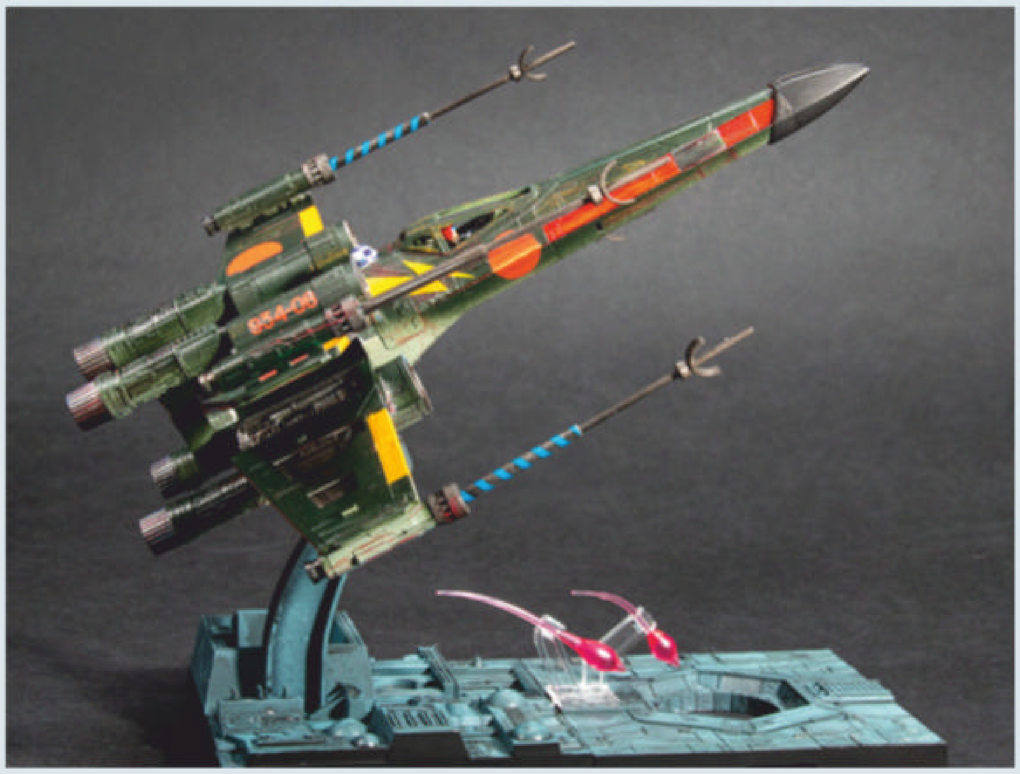




▲ STEPHEN VENTERS

MELROSE PARK, ILLINOIS

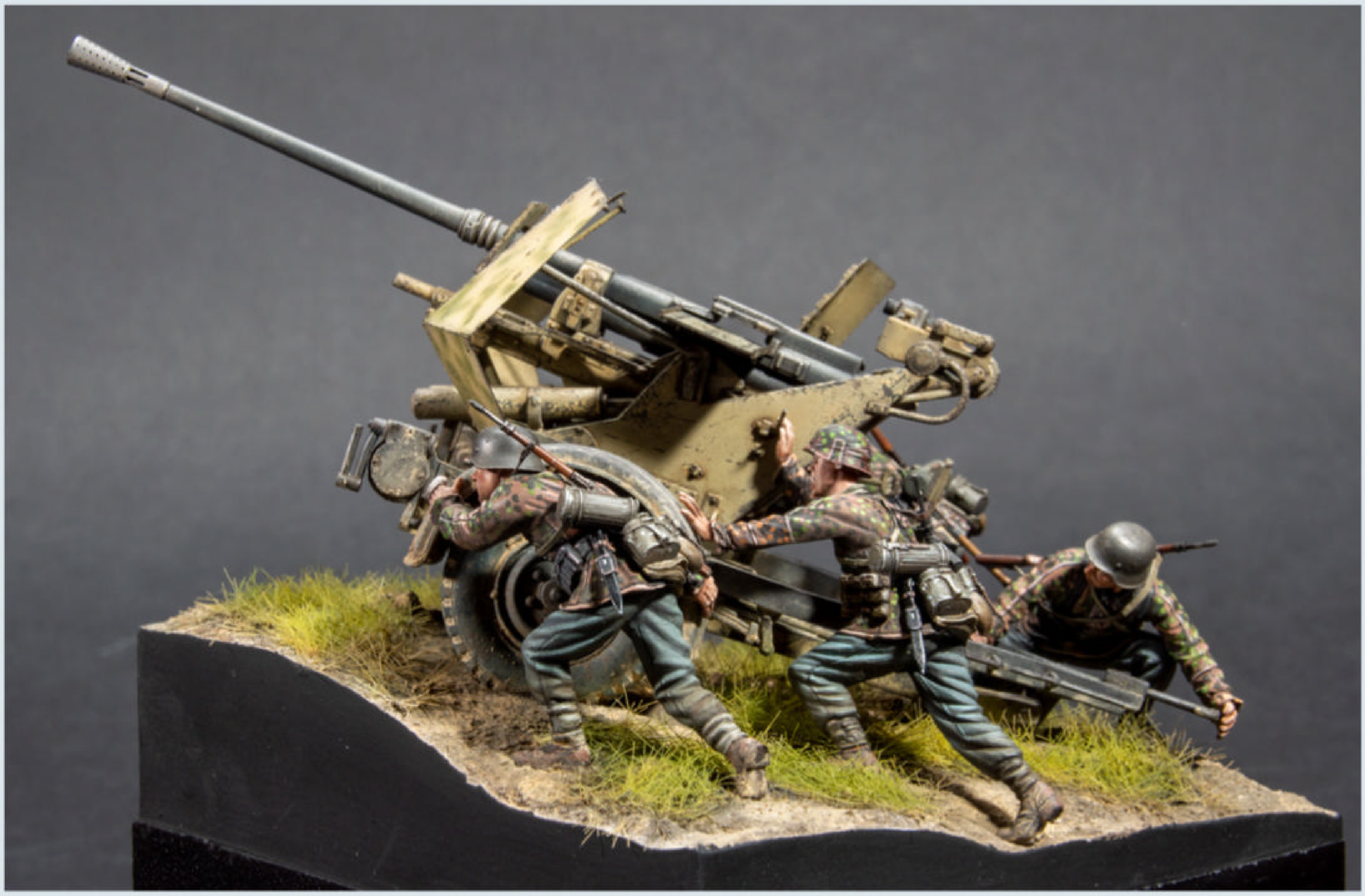
Taking a Sideshow 1/6 scale vinyl kit of vampire hunter Manfred Gallows from Tim Bradstreet's *Red Sky Diary*, Stephen made molds from the kit parts and cast them in resin. He sculpted the eye details and scratchbuilt the Royal Enfield rifle, Navy Colt, holsters, belts, and bangles. Stephen airbrushed and hand-painted acrylics over auto primer. He built the base from a wooden frame and styrene sheet and made the stones with two-part epoxy putty.



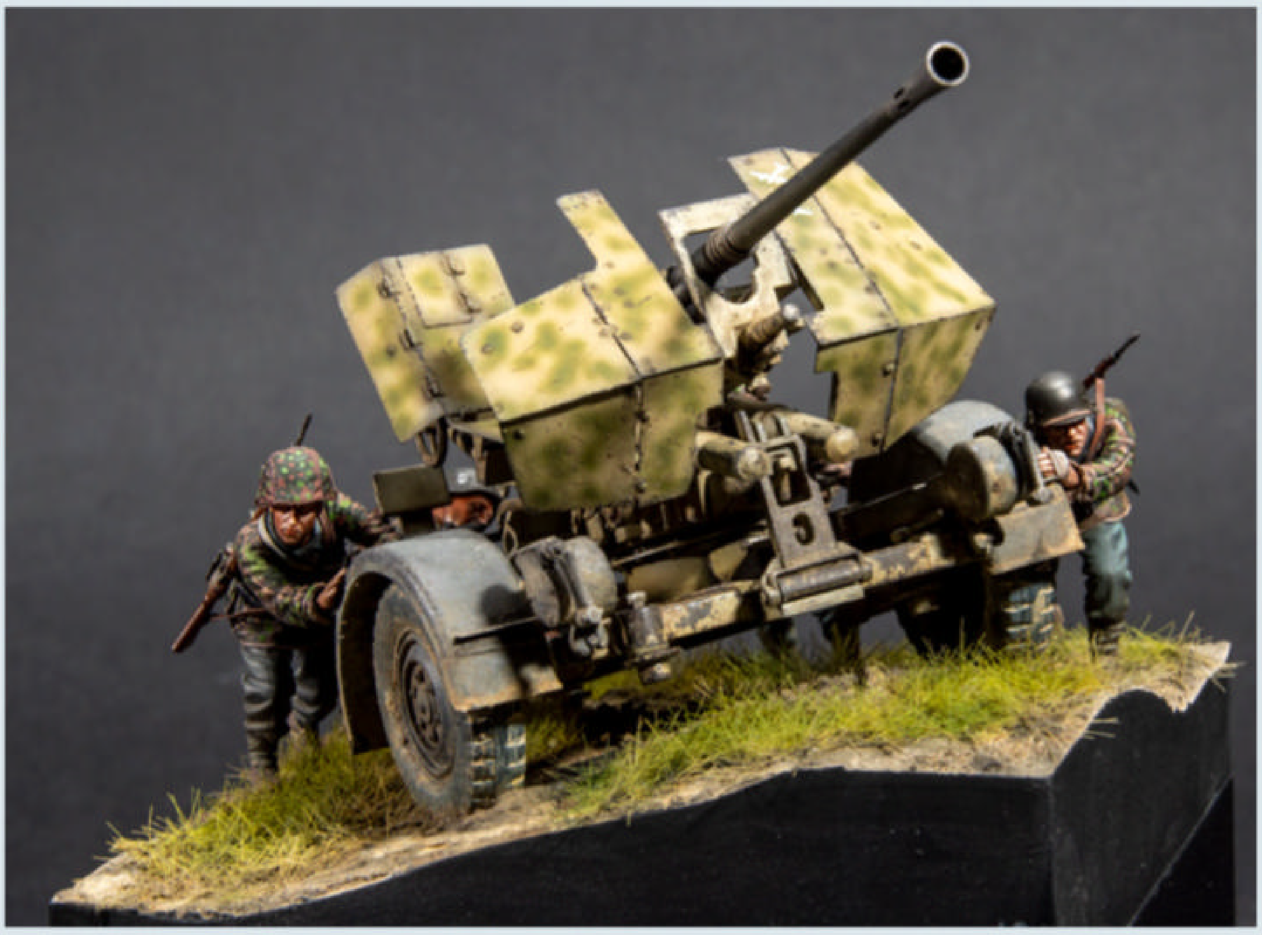
▲ FELIX GONZALES

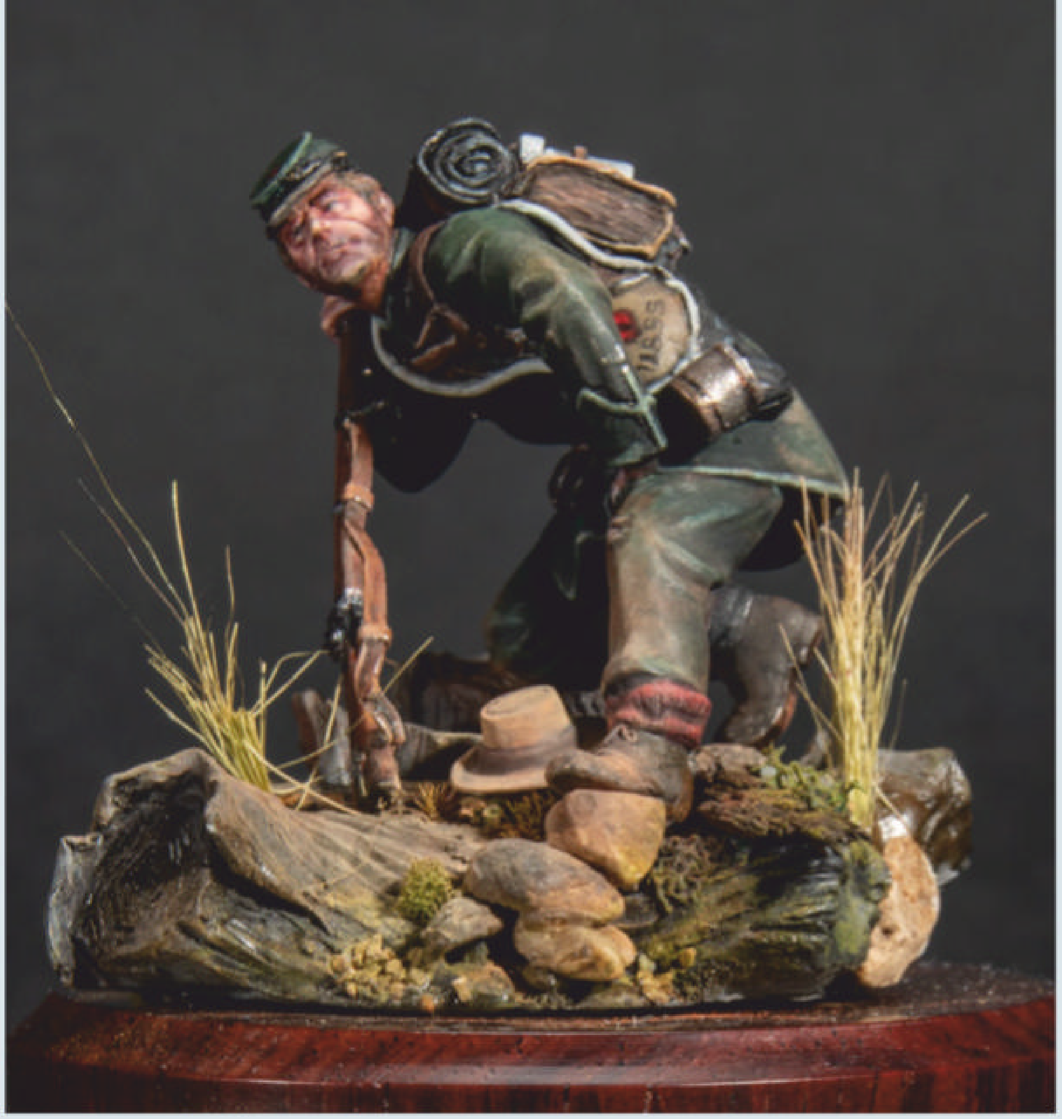
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

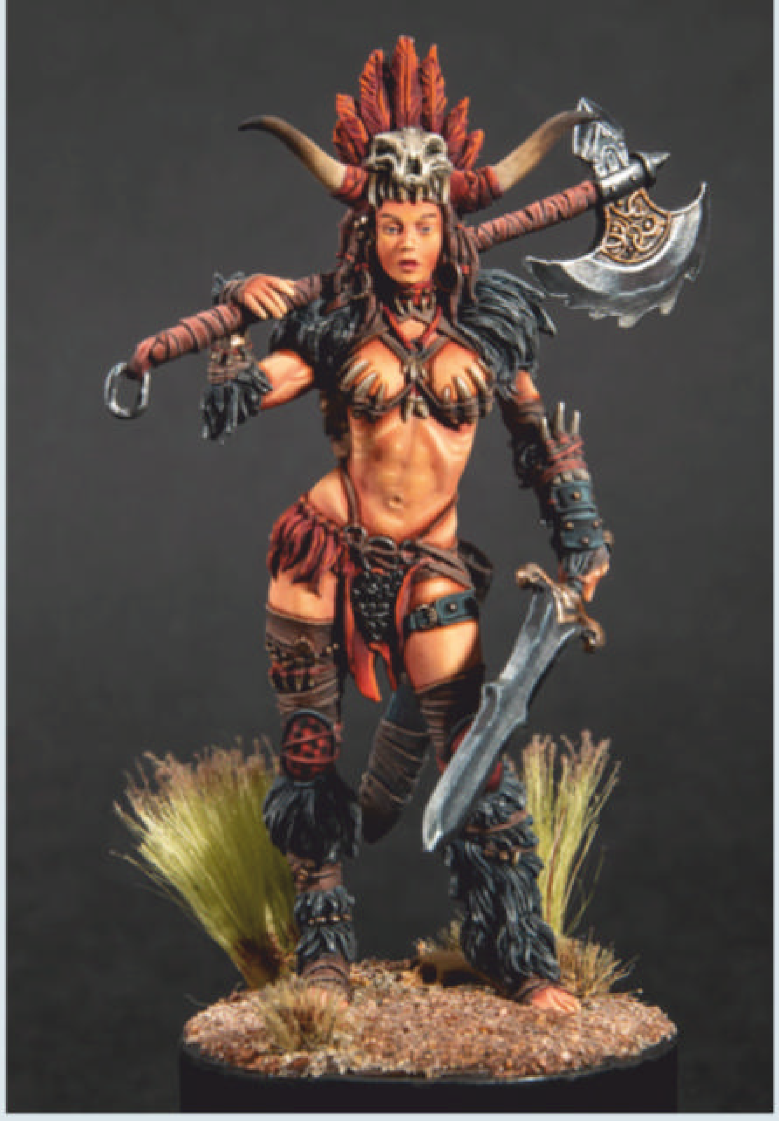
Felix plans to model several X-wings in what-if schemes based on World War II fighters. Here, he has built his "Star Wars: Tora! Tora! Tora!" from a 1/72 scale Bandai kit, sprayed it with Tamiya paints, and applied markings for a Japanese fighter. The base, which came with the kit, shows the famous scene when proton torpedoes hit the exhaust port on the Death Star.



▲ ▶ **ANDY GULDEN**
TINLEY PARK, ILLINOIS
German soldiers struggle to push their FlaK 37 up a hill in Andy's vignette. He upgraded the Trumpeter kit with Lion Roar photo-etched metal details and swapped in Hornet heads and hands for the Tristar figures. AK Interactive Terrains products helped Andy model the unforgiving ground.

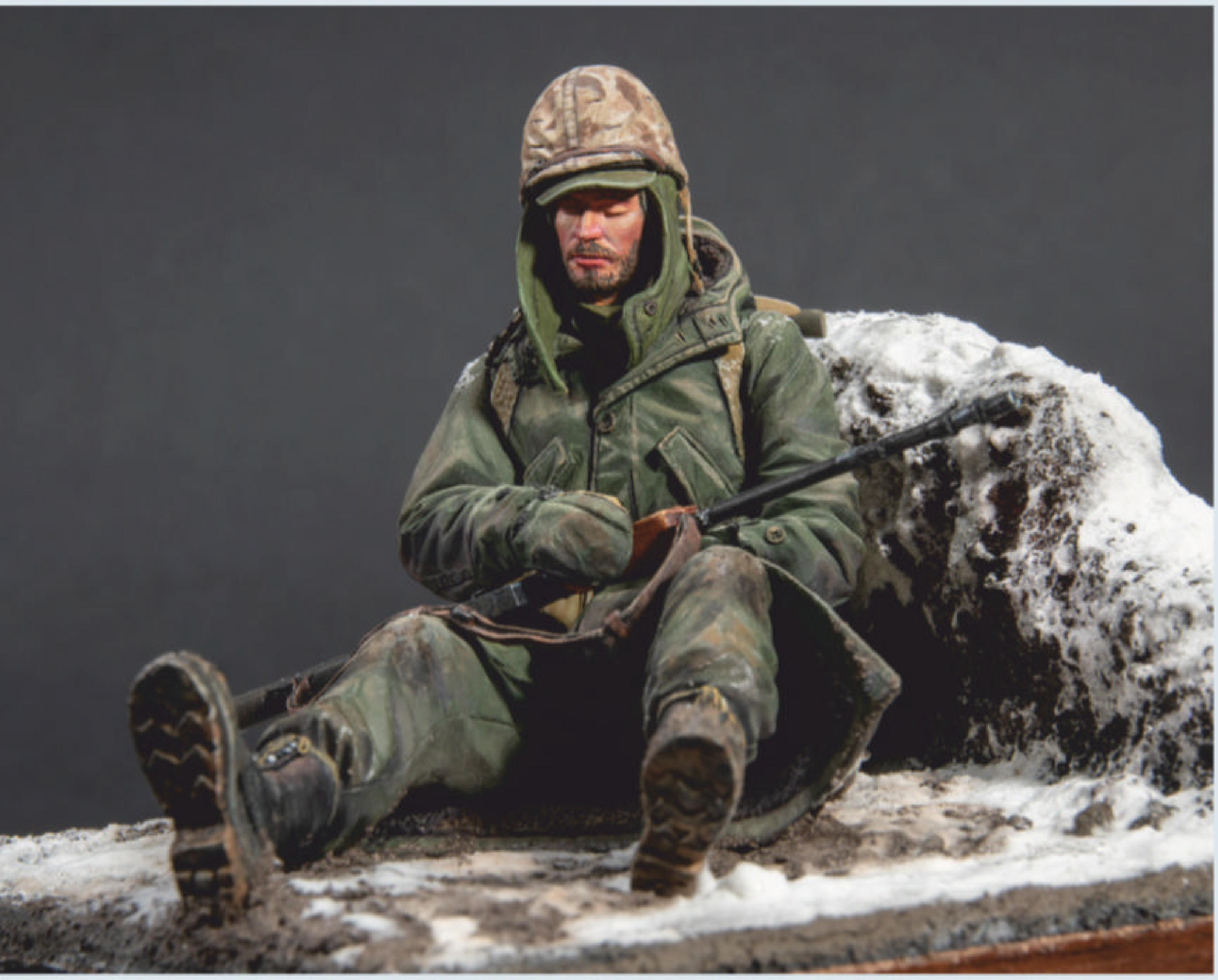




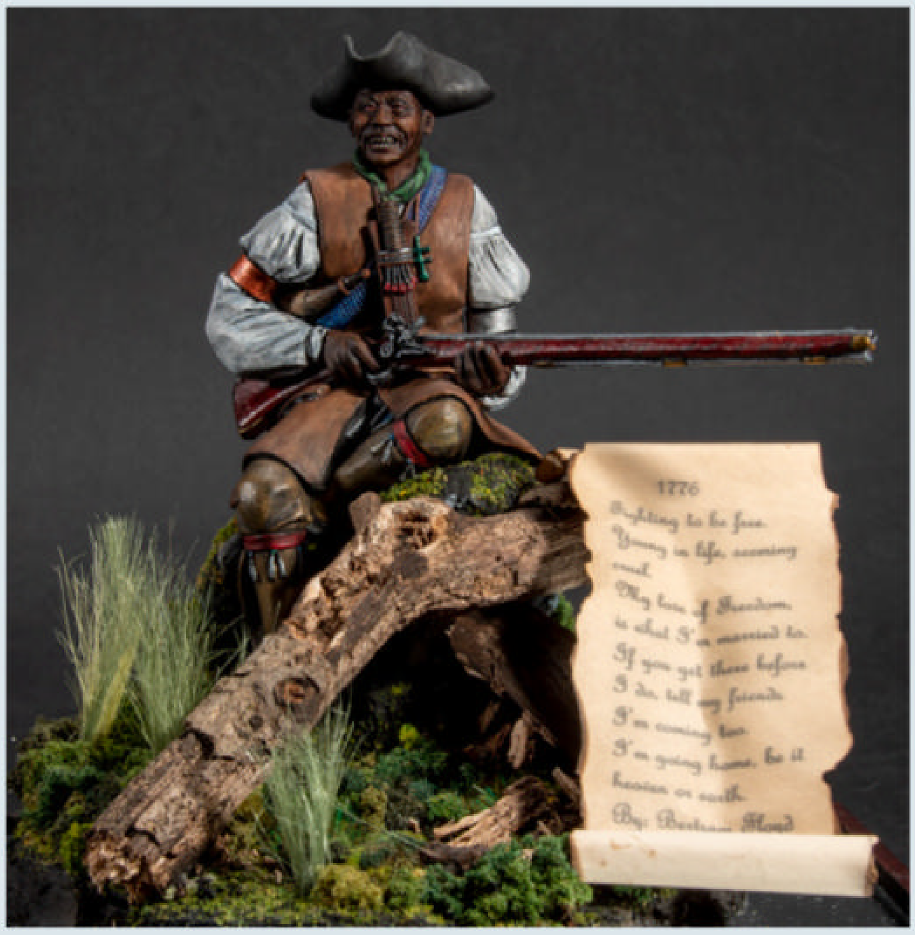


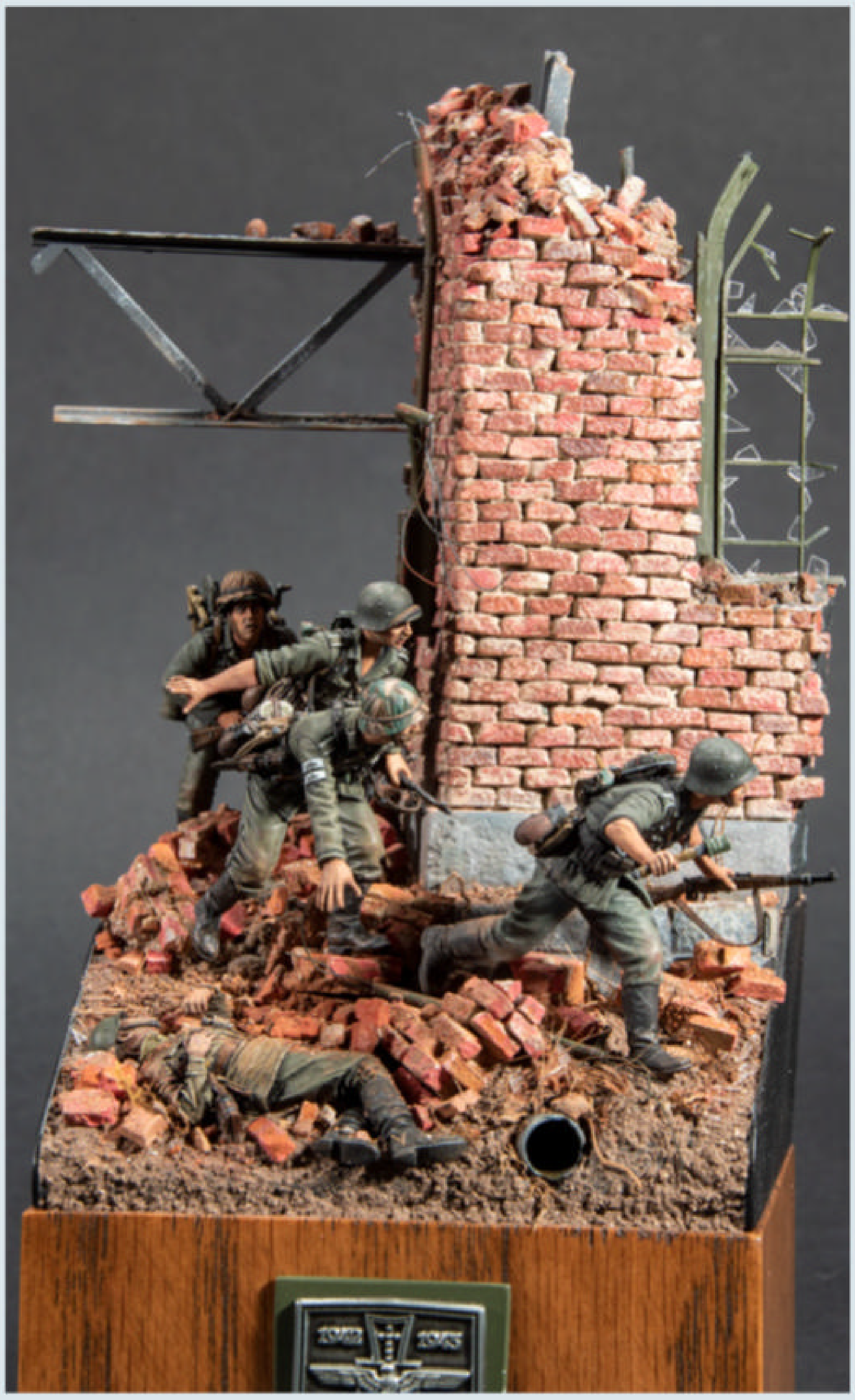
▲ **TONY STENCEL**
LONG GROVE, ILLINOIS
A combination of Reaper, Scale 75, and Jo Sonja acrylics, and Humbrol metallic enamels helped Tony finish this Pegaso 54mm Berdan Sharpshooter. He modified the base with Green Stuff putty and added grass and texture with Vallejo terrain products.

▲ **MICHAEL HOCHSHEIDT**
ROBBINSDALE, MINNESOTA
Sand and tufts from Gamers Grass and Woodland Scenics helped Michael base his 75mm Savage Beauty figure from Black Sun Miniatures. He airbrushed the skin tones and refined them with acrylic glazes and a paintbrush.



◀ **JOHN ROSENGRANT**
NOLENSVILLE, TENNESSEE
John sculpted the figure for his U.S. Marine at Chosin Reservoir scene from scratch with Magic-Sculpt epoxy clay. He airbrushed the base coats and hand-painted the rest with AK Interactive 3rd Generation and Scale 75 Warfront acrylics.

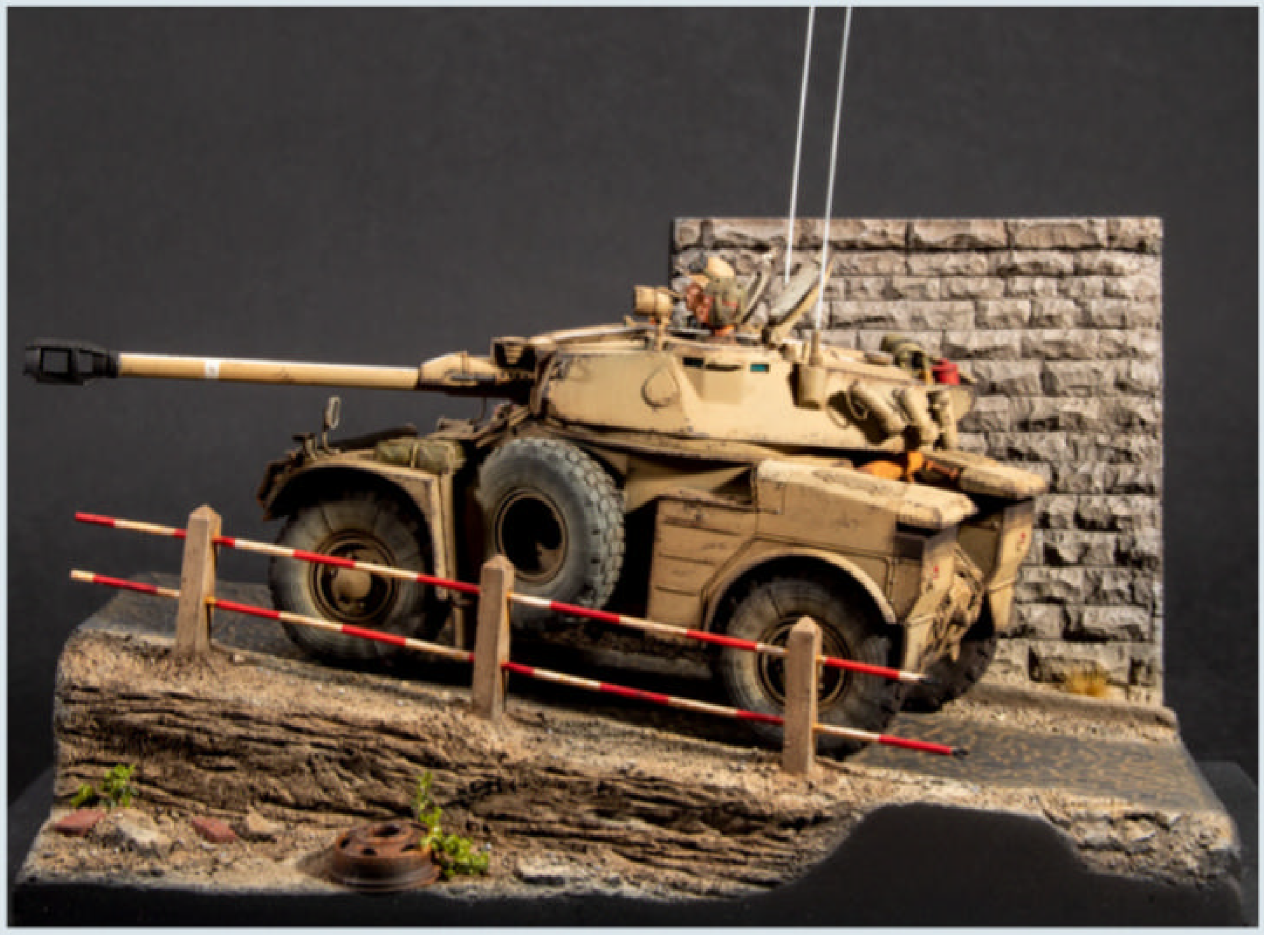


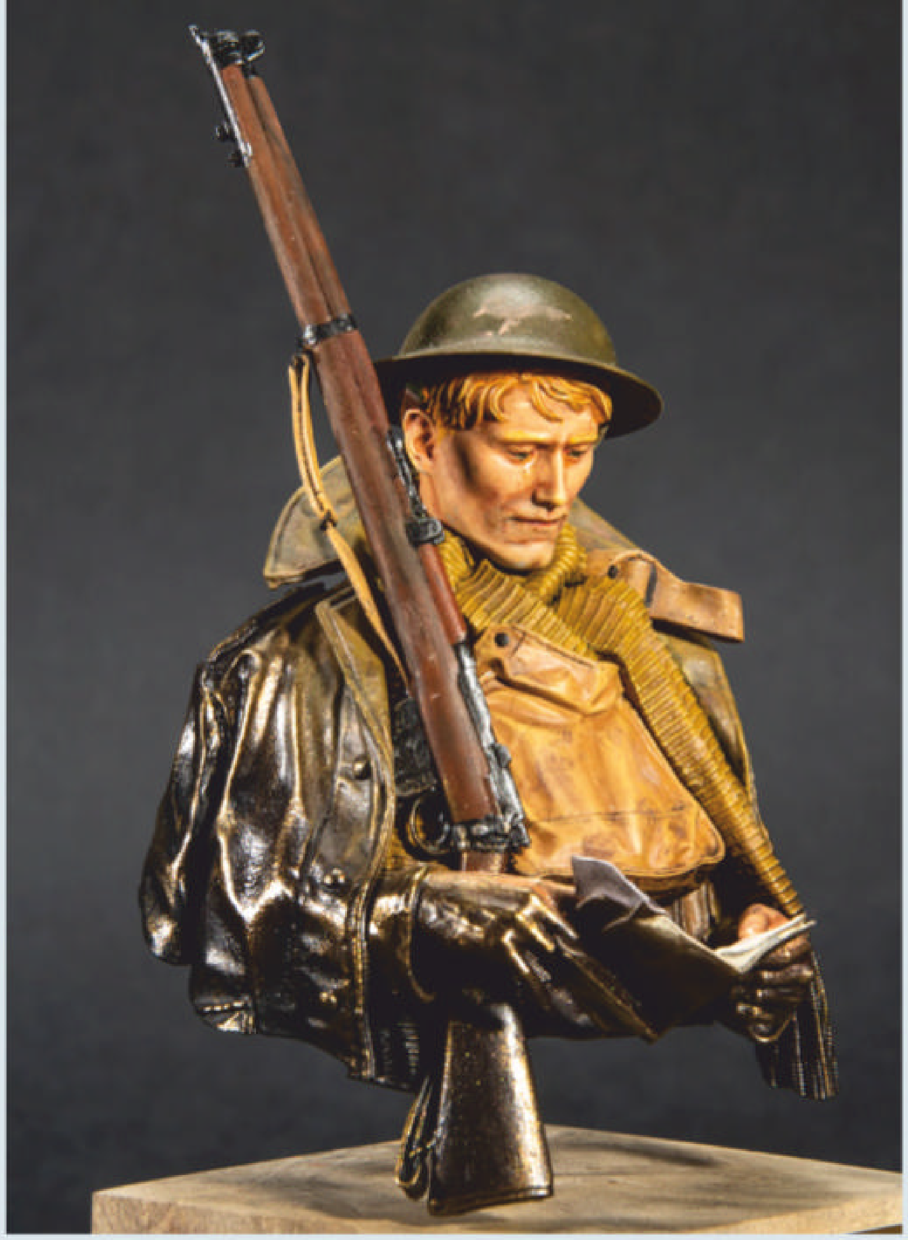


▲ BERTRAM FLOYD
SHEFFIELD VILLAGE, OHIO
Bertram calls his model, “1776, Free.” He modified the original 120mm kit, providing it with a new head, hat, handkerchief around the neck, and a base. Bertram used craft-store paints to finish the miniature.

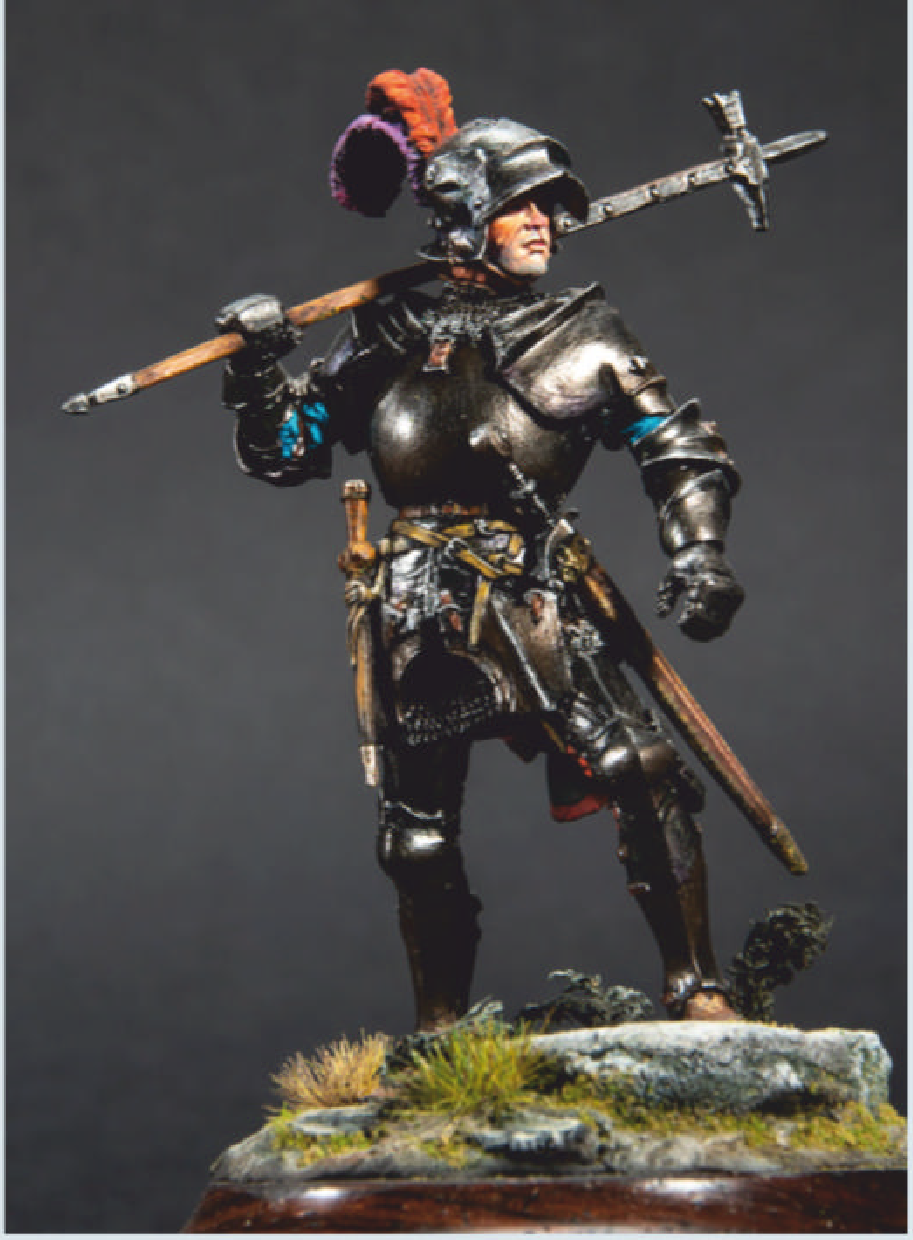
▶ CHIP REMBERT
BRIGHTON, MICHIGAN
“Achtung Stalingrad!” features a scratchbuilt building and figures from Master Box, Warriors, and Stalingrad. Chip painted everything by hand with acrylics and modified all of the figures to some extent. He built the scene on a Styrofoam base and hand-laid the bricks for the building. When weathering, he used washes, pigments, and pastels.

▶ TOM KARNAS
TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA
Tom combined a Takom kit, figures from Hornet, and scratchbuilding to create his vignette, “Narrow Roads,” depicting an Israeli ABL-90. All the painting was completed with Tamiya acrylics and oil washes. For weathering, Tom went in with oils, pigments, and a “good, old-fashioned HB pencil.” He made the base out of Magic-Sculpt two-part epoxy putty.



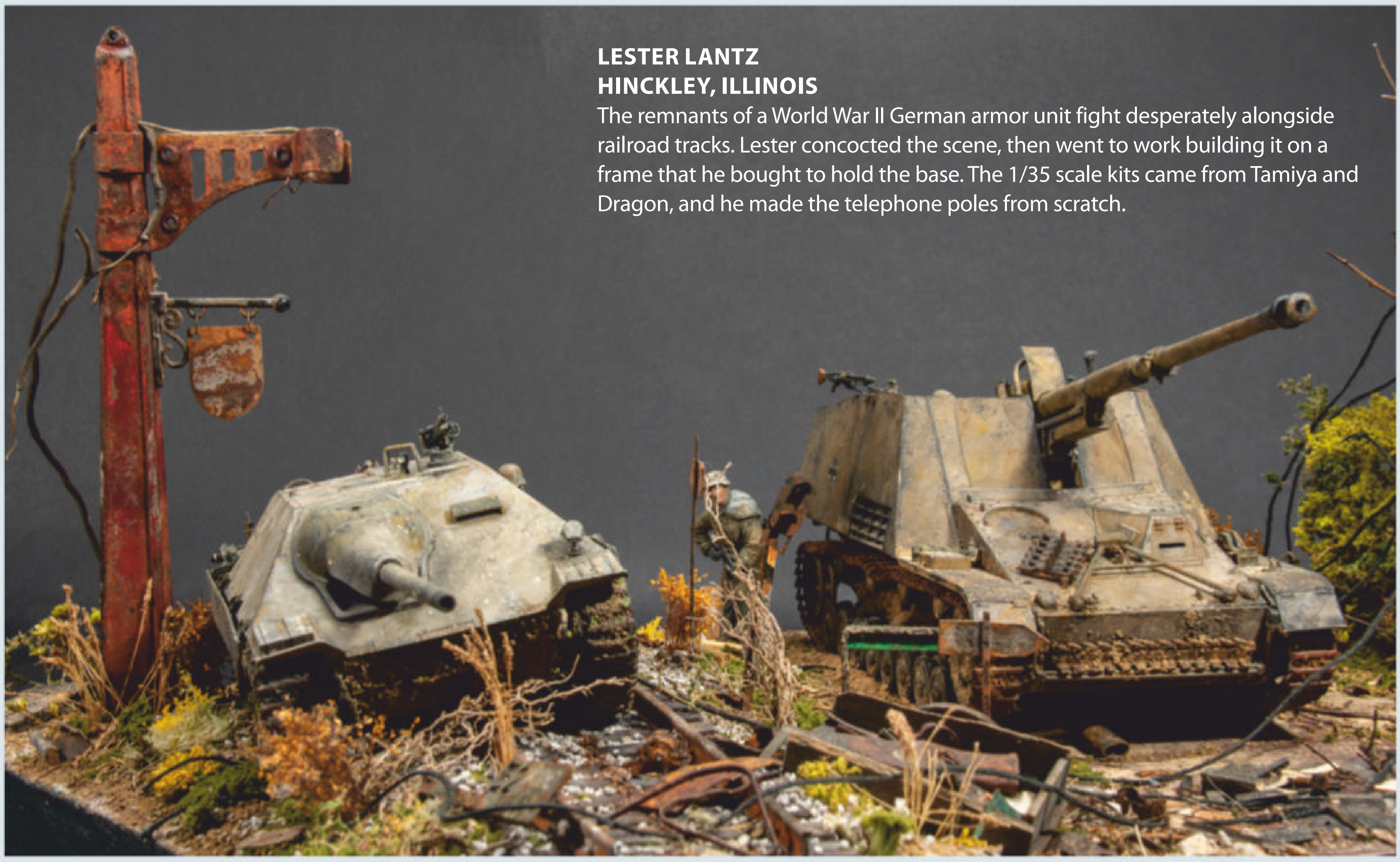


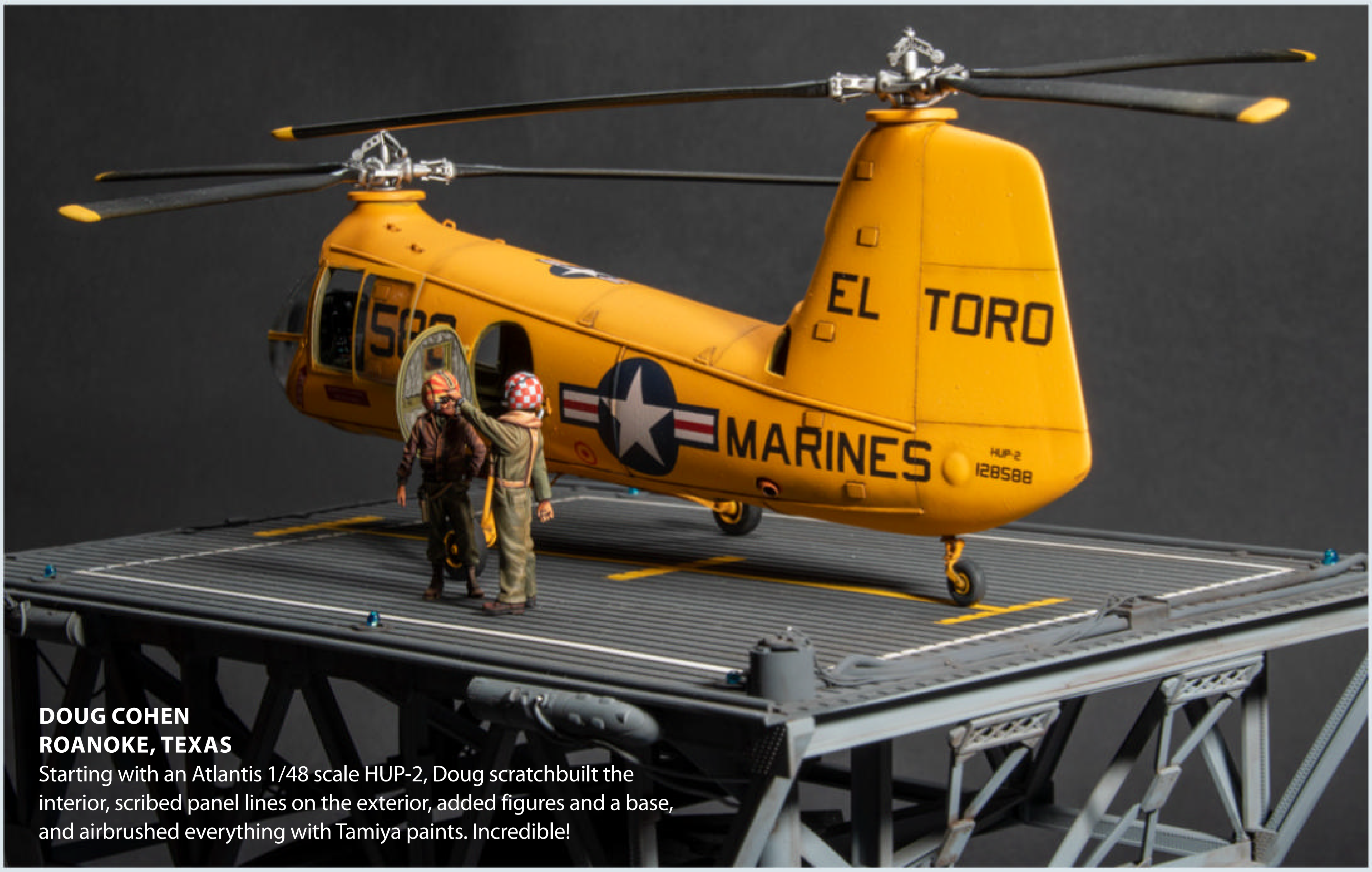
▲ ROBERT HUETTNER
THOMPSON'S STATION, TENNESSEE
Robert captures that all unknown soldiers were once known in his "Letter to an Unknown Soldier," based on the World War I memorial in Paddington Station. He faded the bronze into the skin tones.



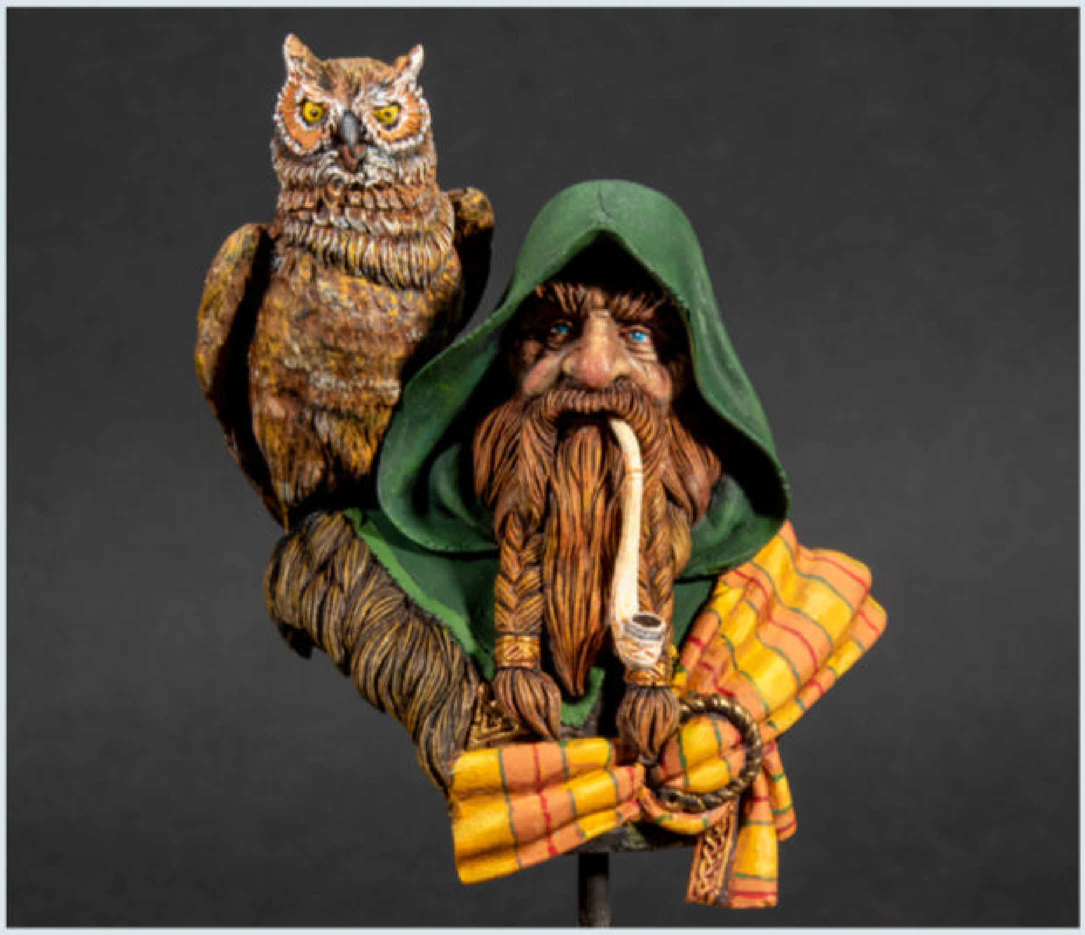
▲ ZENO MLADIN
LONDON, ONTARIO, CANADA
Zeno painted this 75mm 15th-century Italian knight figure from Tim Berlin entirely with Vallejo acrylics. With no airbrush in sight, he primed, brushed multiple layers, and post-shaded.

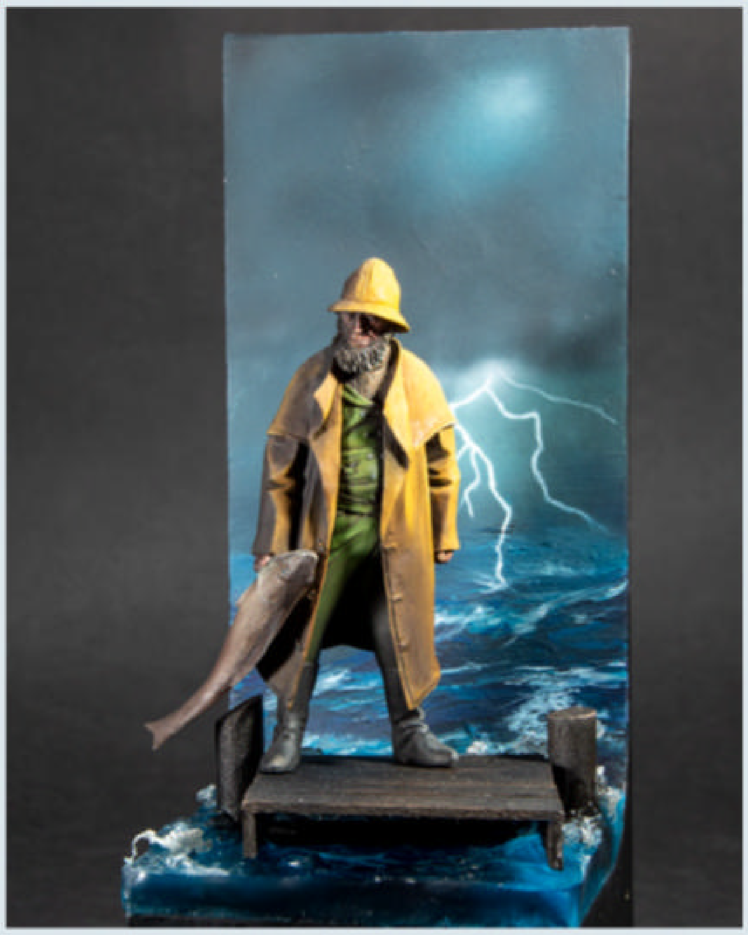
LESTER LANTZ
HINCKLEY, ILLINOIS
The remnants of a World War II German armor unit fight desperately alongside railroad tracks. Lester concocted the scene, then went to work building it on a frame that he bought to hold the base. The 1/35 scale kits came from Tamiya and Dragon, and he made the telephone poles from scratch.





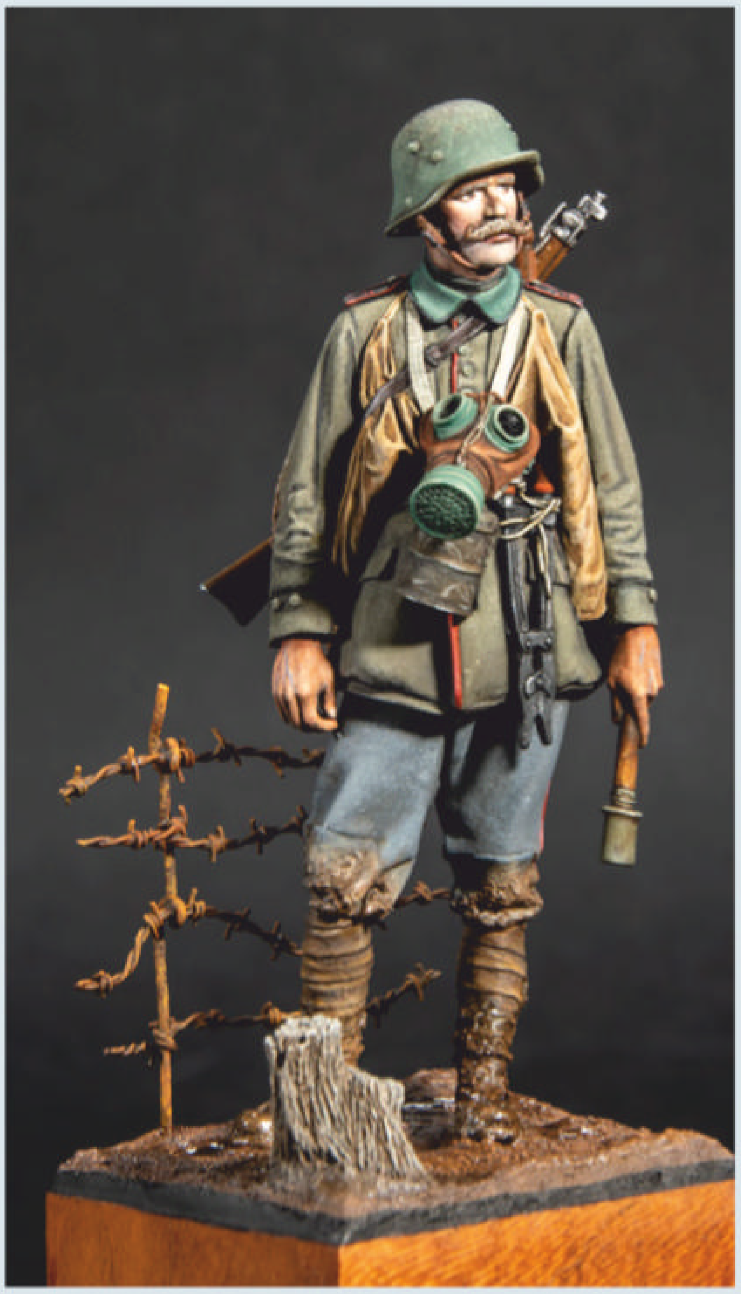
DOUG COHEN
ROANOKE, TEXAS
Starting with an Atlantis 1/48 scale HUP-2, Doug scratchbuilt the interior, scribed panel lines on the exterior, added figures and a base, and airbrushed everything with Tamiya paints. Incredible!

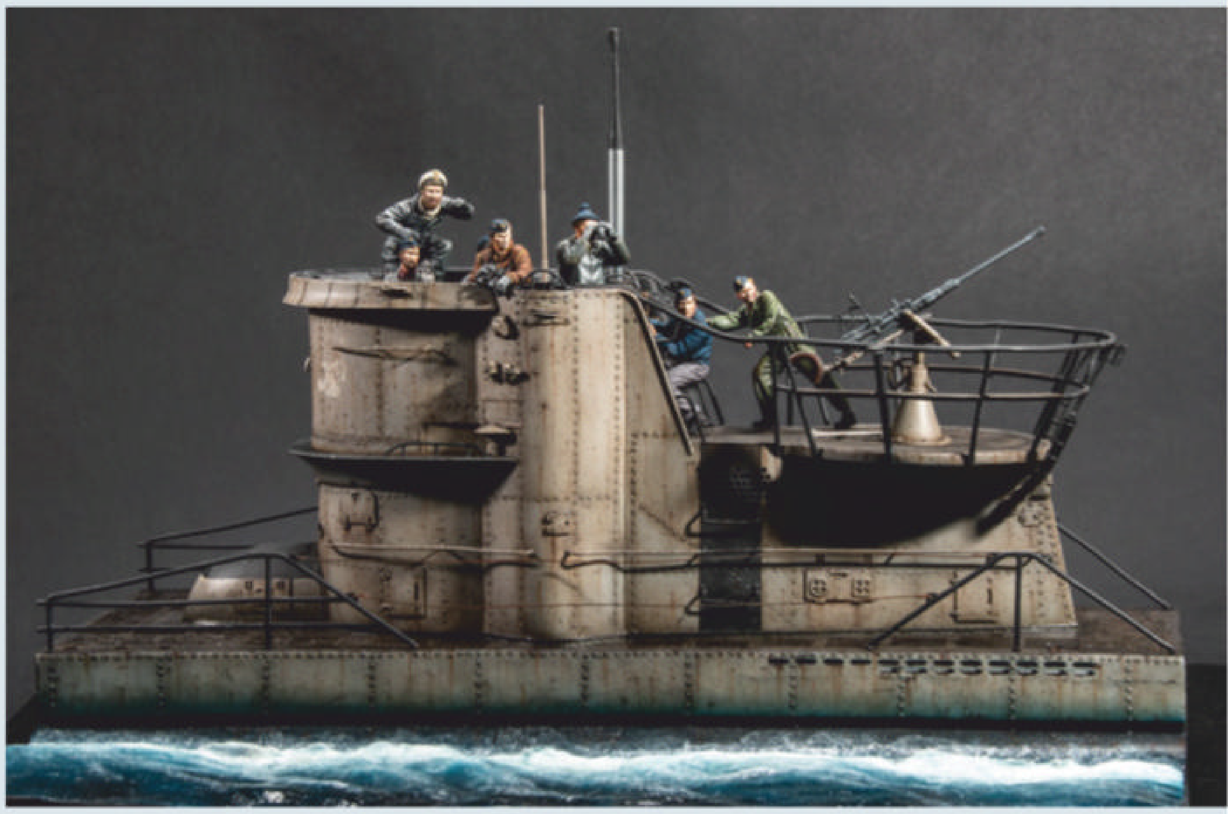




▲ **ROBERT NORMAN**
PAINESVILLE, OHIO
Finishing an IL Miniatures 1/10 scale bust of a dwarf with his owl companion, Robert named him Gliocas, because the manufacturer's name "didn't make sense." Acrylic paints adorn the resin miniature, which Robert mounted on a wooden base.

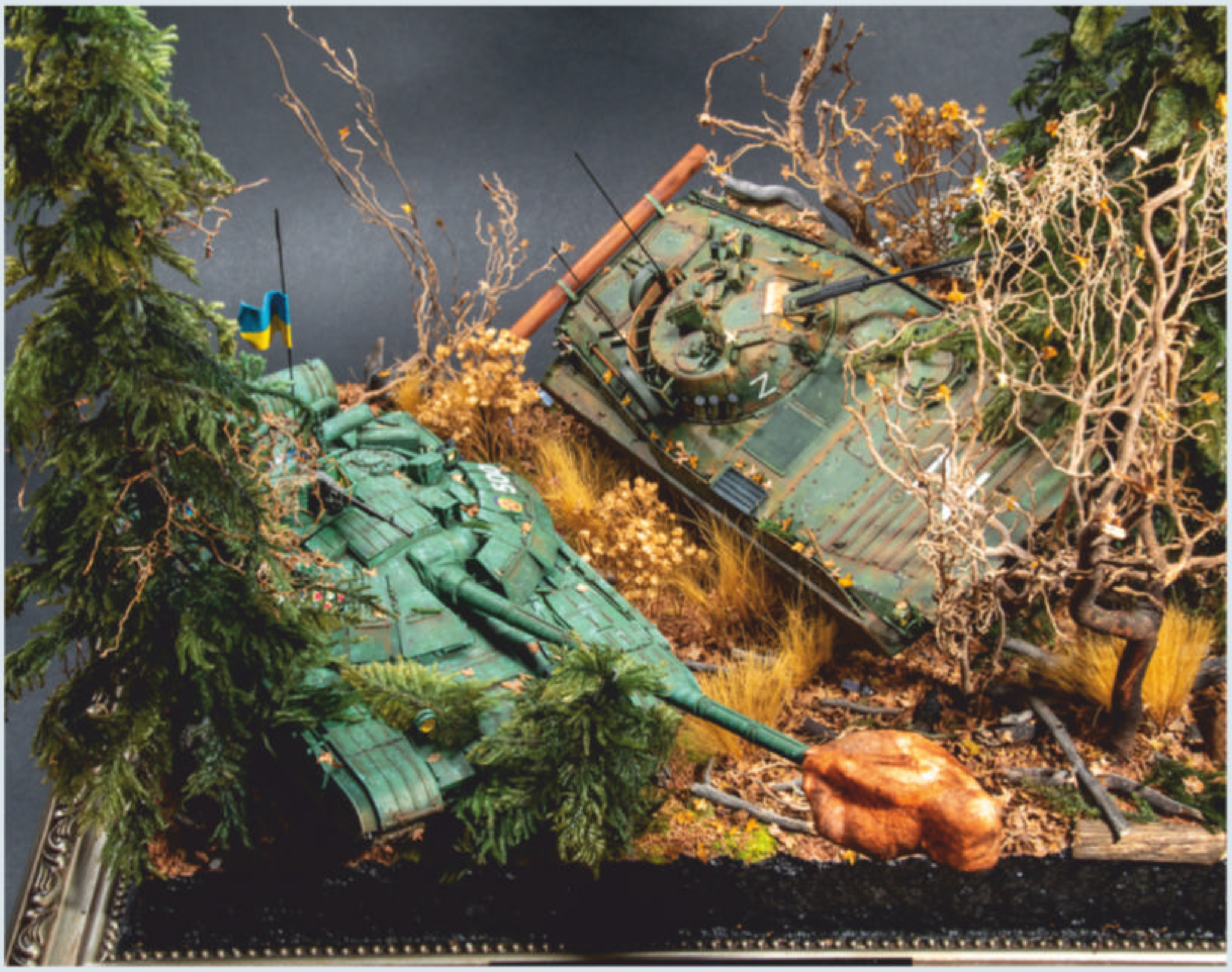
▲ **RICHARD BRUNA**
PLAINFIELD, ILLINOIS
Richard's Old Fisherman stares out from a scratchbuilt pier, where poured resin waves threaten to sweep everything away. Richard finished the scene with acrylic paints and wet-blended layers to achieve this vignette.





▲ SERGIO SCHWARTZ
MONTERREY, NUEVO LEÓN, MEXICO
The bridge crew of *U-503* in the North Atlantic, 1942 spot a destroyer in "Zerstorer … Alarm!" Sergio completed the Andrea Miniatures kit, made conversions to figures, sculpted water, and added Scale 75 acrylics with an airbrush and paintbrushes.

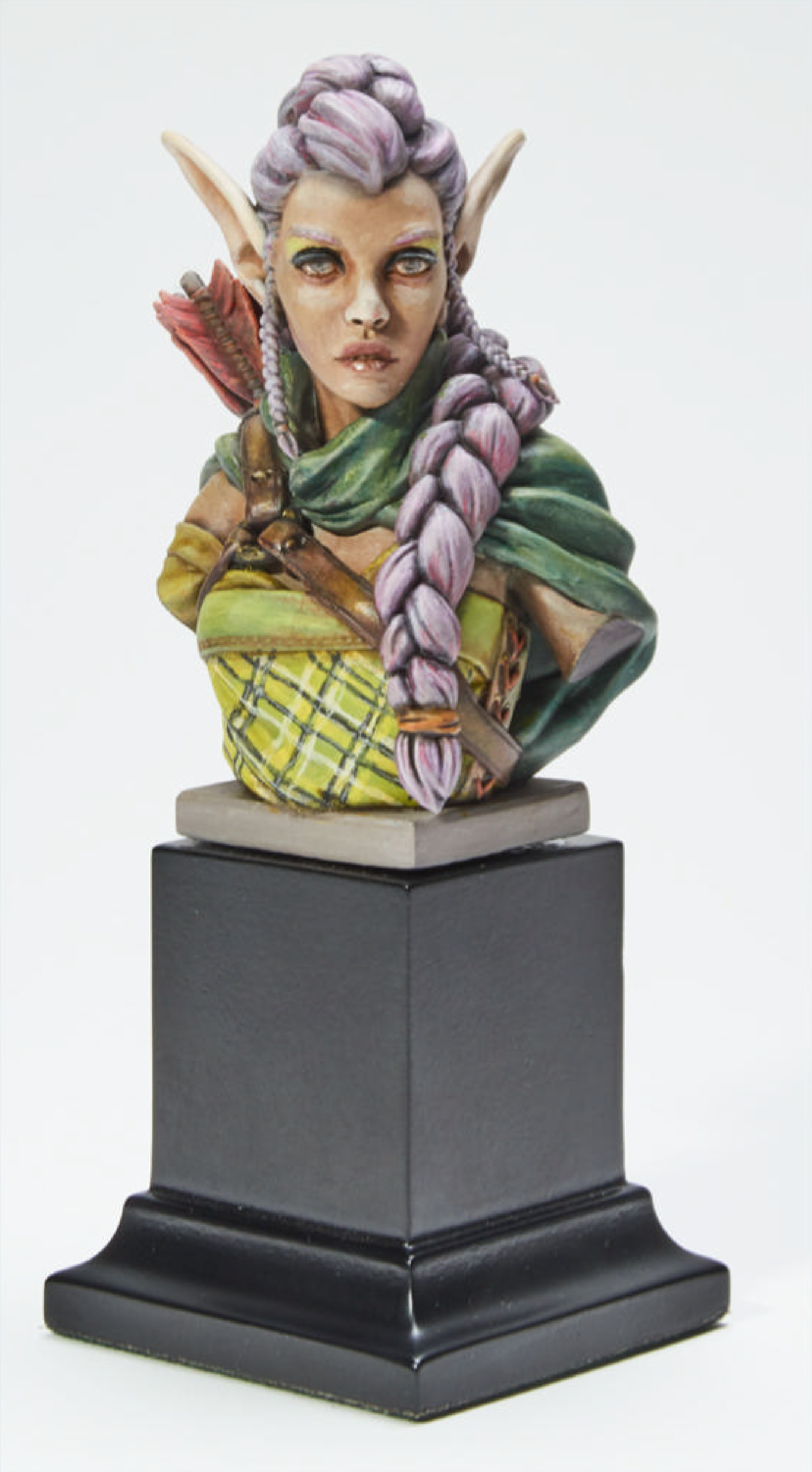
◀ MARK SPRAYBERRY
PANAMA CITY BEACH, FLORIDA
Mark's 90mm Andrea figure depicts a German 5th Regiment Stormtrooper in 1917. He removed the gas mask to add a mustache to the face. Mark hand-painted using Scale 75 acrylics and inks and made the base from AB Epoxy Sculpt clay.

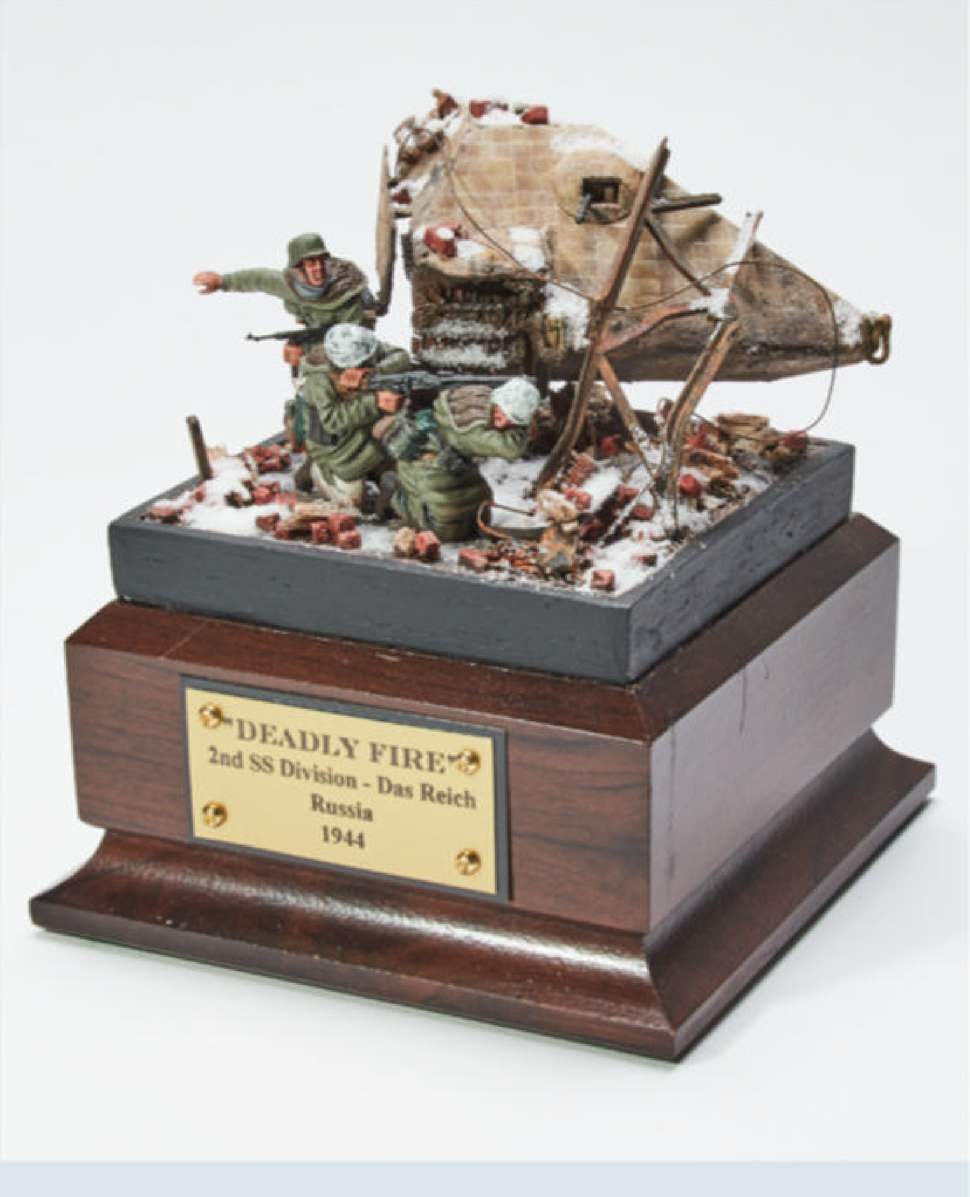


◀ MIKE KOHTA
GREEN BAY, WISCONSIN
A Russian BMP-2E is on the losing end of a confrontation with a Ukrainian T-64BM Bulat in Mike's diorama. He lighted the muzzle flash with an LED, placed the scene on a picture frame, and made the base with matboard and papier-mâché.

Roscoe Turner Indy Invitational

The 2022 Roscoe Turner Indianapolis Invitational Contest in Lebanon, Indiana, hosted modelers from Indiana and surrounding states. *FSM* traveled south to check out the entries and shot these models. The 2023 show will be April 15. See IPMSRoscoeTurner.org for info.





▲ **RICHARD G. GUETIG**

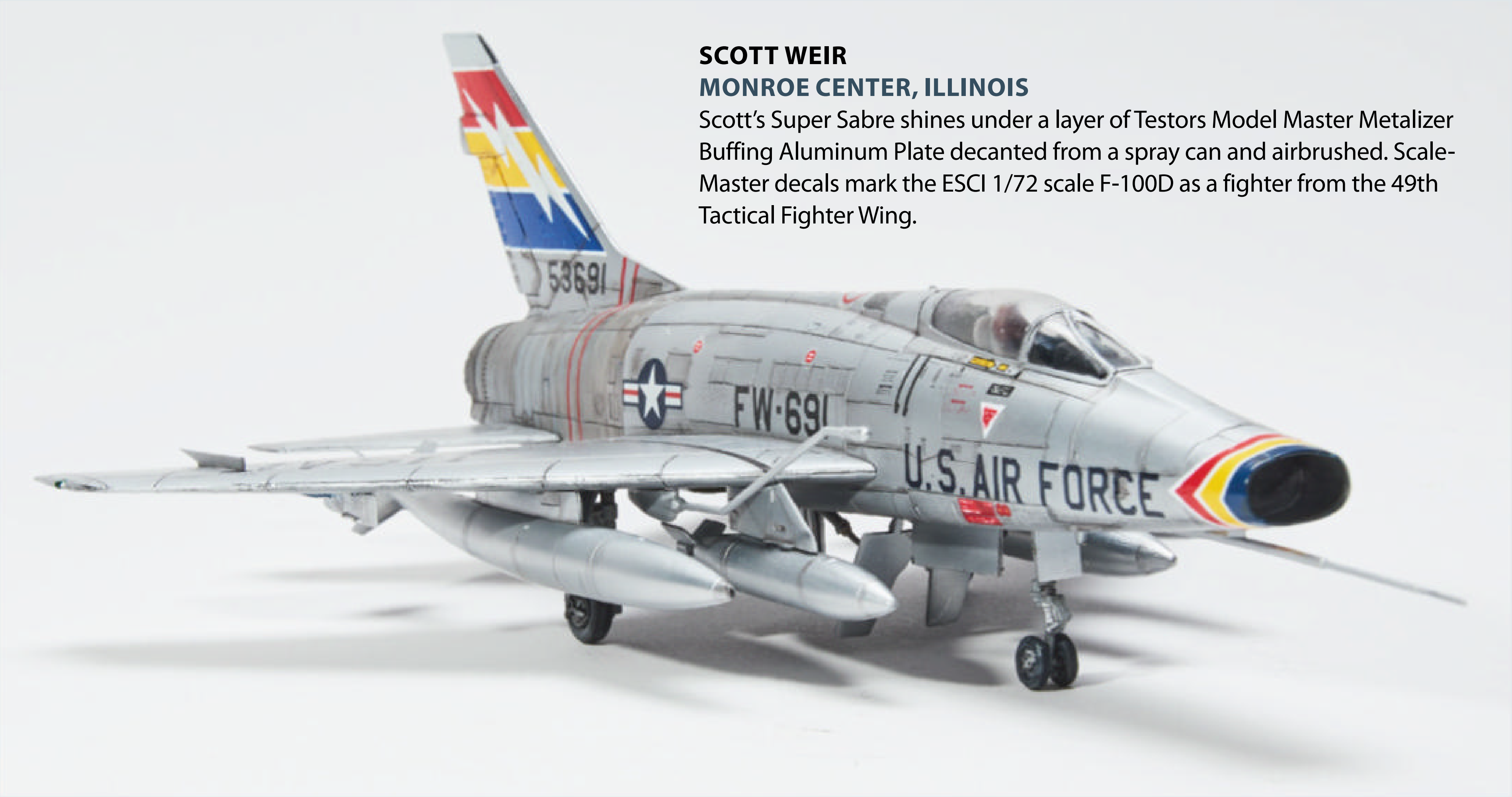
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

For his action-packed 1/35 scale vignette of Das Reich Division soldiers on the Eastern Front in 1944, Richard posed Warriors figures with a section cut from a Tamiya Panther. He applied Eduard Zimmerit to the tank and painted everything with acrylics — Tamiya for the tank and Vallejo and LifeColor for the figures.

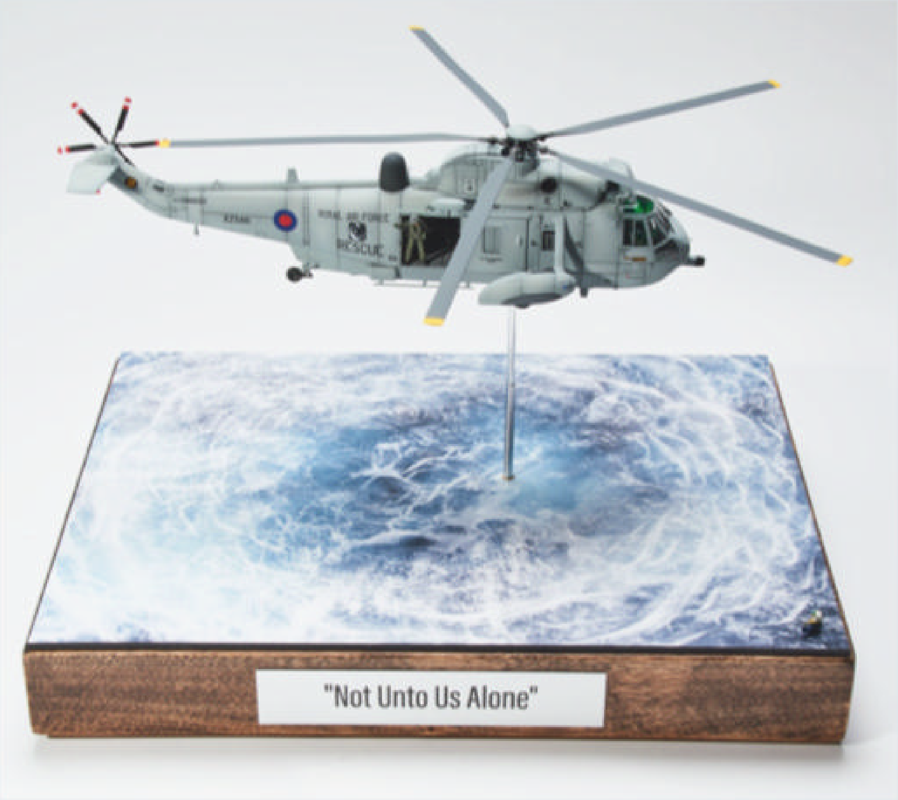
◀ **KEVIN FOUREMAN**

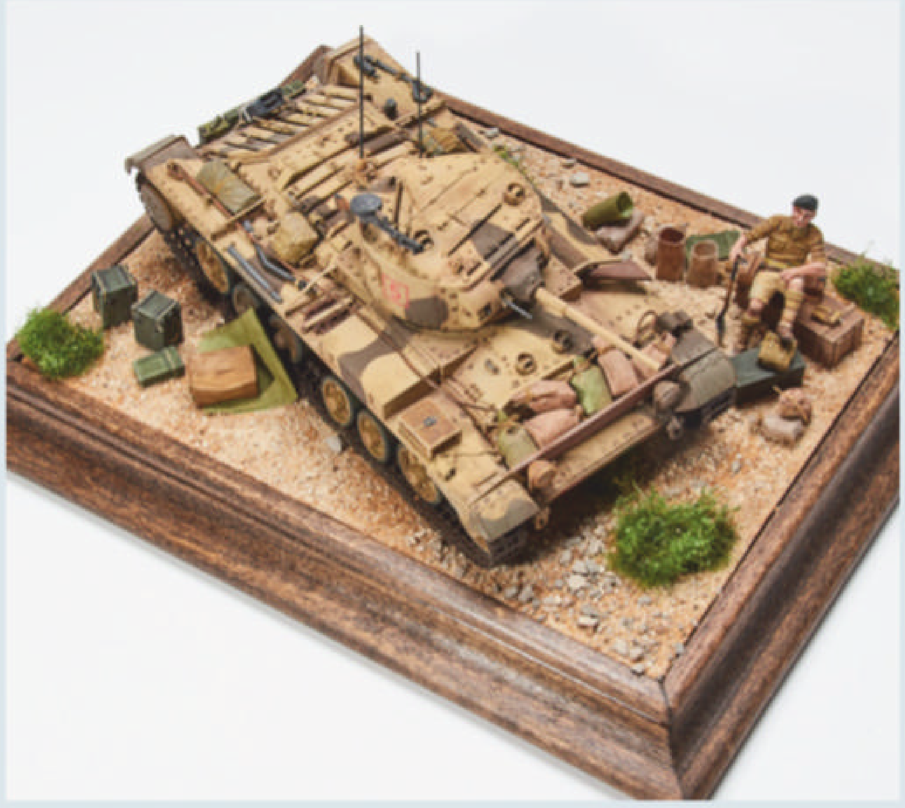
ARCANUM, OHIO

Kevin airbrushed base coats onto Midost's 80mm Elven Archer, but everything else is hand-painted. His arsenal of colors includes acrylics, artist oils, pigments, colored pencils, and inks.



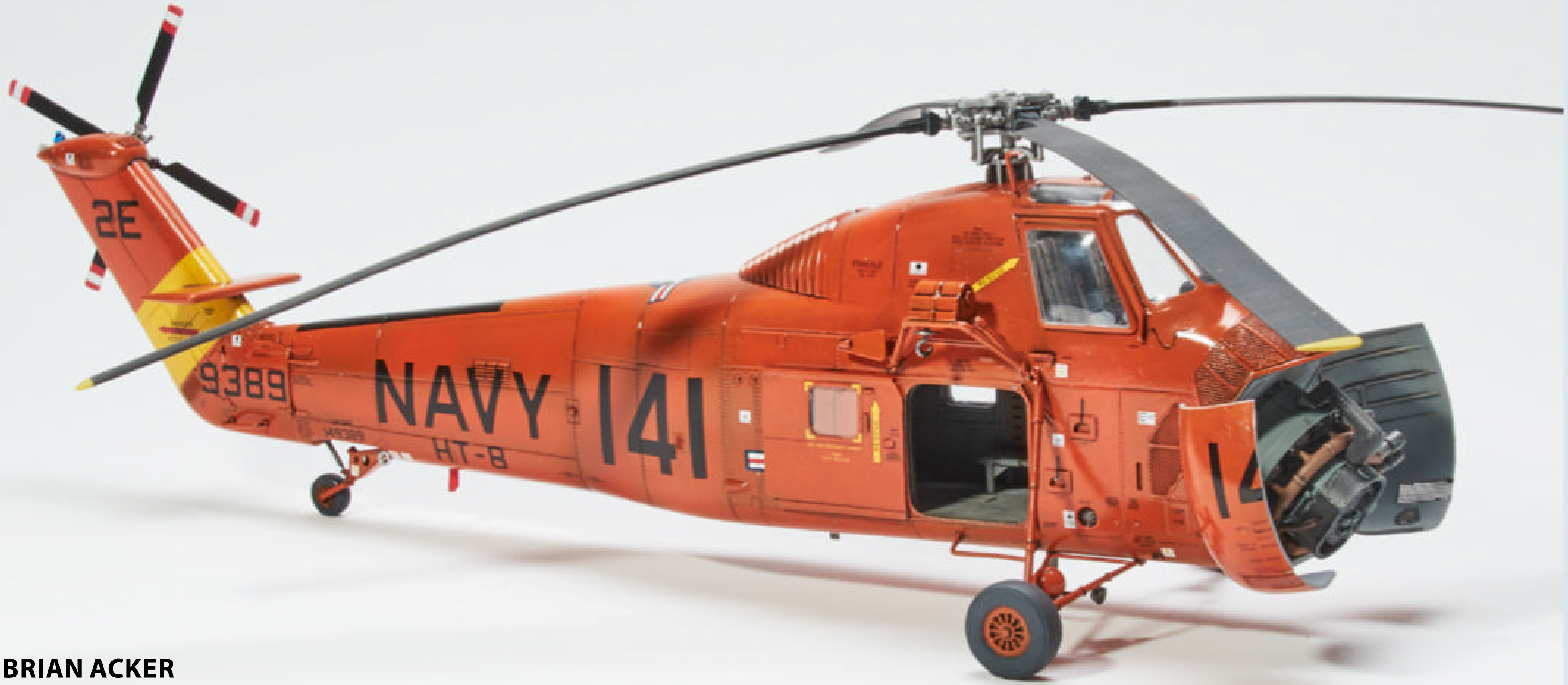
SCOTT WEIR
MONROE CENTER, ILLINOIS
Scott's Super Sabre shines under a layer of Testors Model Master Metalizer Buffing Aluminum Plate decanted from a spray can and airbrushed. Scale-Master decals mark the ESCI 1/72 scale F-100D as a fighter from the 49th Tactical Fighter Wing.



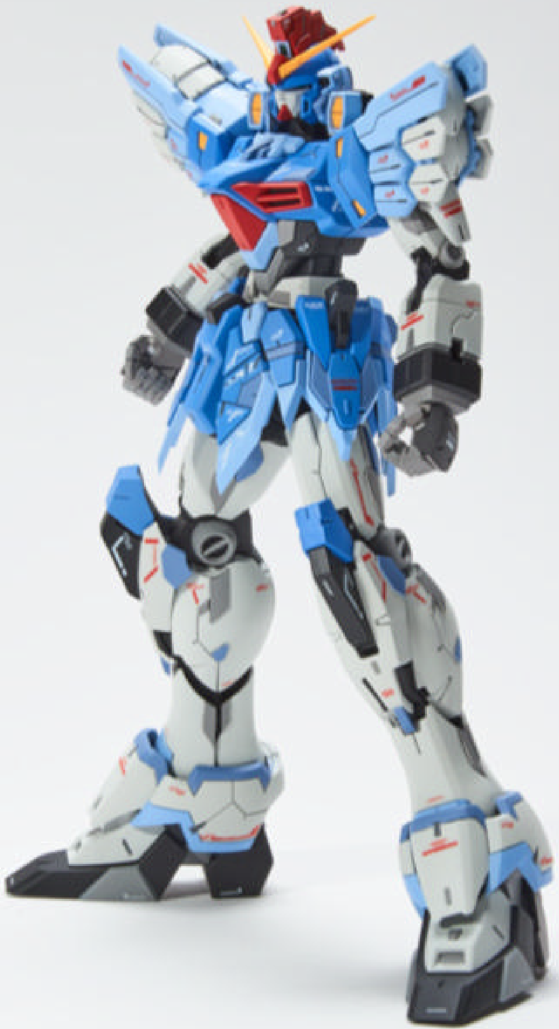


▲ **GREG AGEE**
LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY
Wanting to place his out-of-the-box build of an Airfix 1/72 scale Sea King in context, Greg suspended it above an appropriate rotor wash display base from Coastal Kits. He airbrushed the helicopter with Model Master colors with post-shading and oil washes for weathering.

▲ **DAVE WELCH**
FORT WAYNE, INDIANA
To improve AFV Club's 1/35 scale Valentine Mk.I, Dave scratchbuilt a rear stowage rack, sandbags, and antenna mount, replaced grab rails and handles with wire, and wound a tow cable from wire. He painted the British tank and the scratchbuilt base with Tamiya, Vallejo, and Humbrol colors.

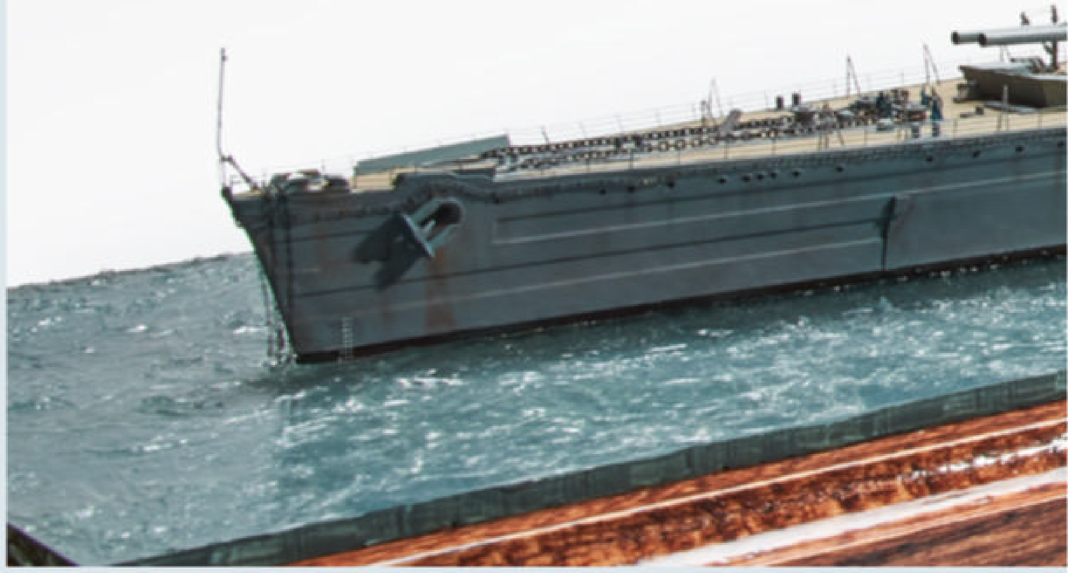


BRIAN ACKER
MOORESVILLE, INDIANA
Brian dressed up the cockpit of a Gallery Models 1/48 scale UH-34D with Eduard photo-etched metal. He painted it with MR Paint lacquers using Uschi van der Rosten spatter stencils during pre-shading to weather the finish.



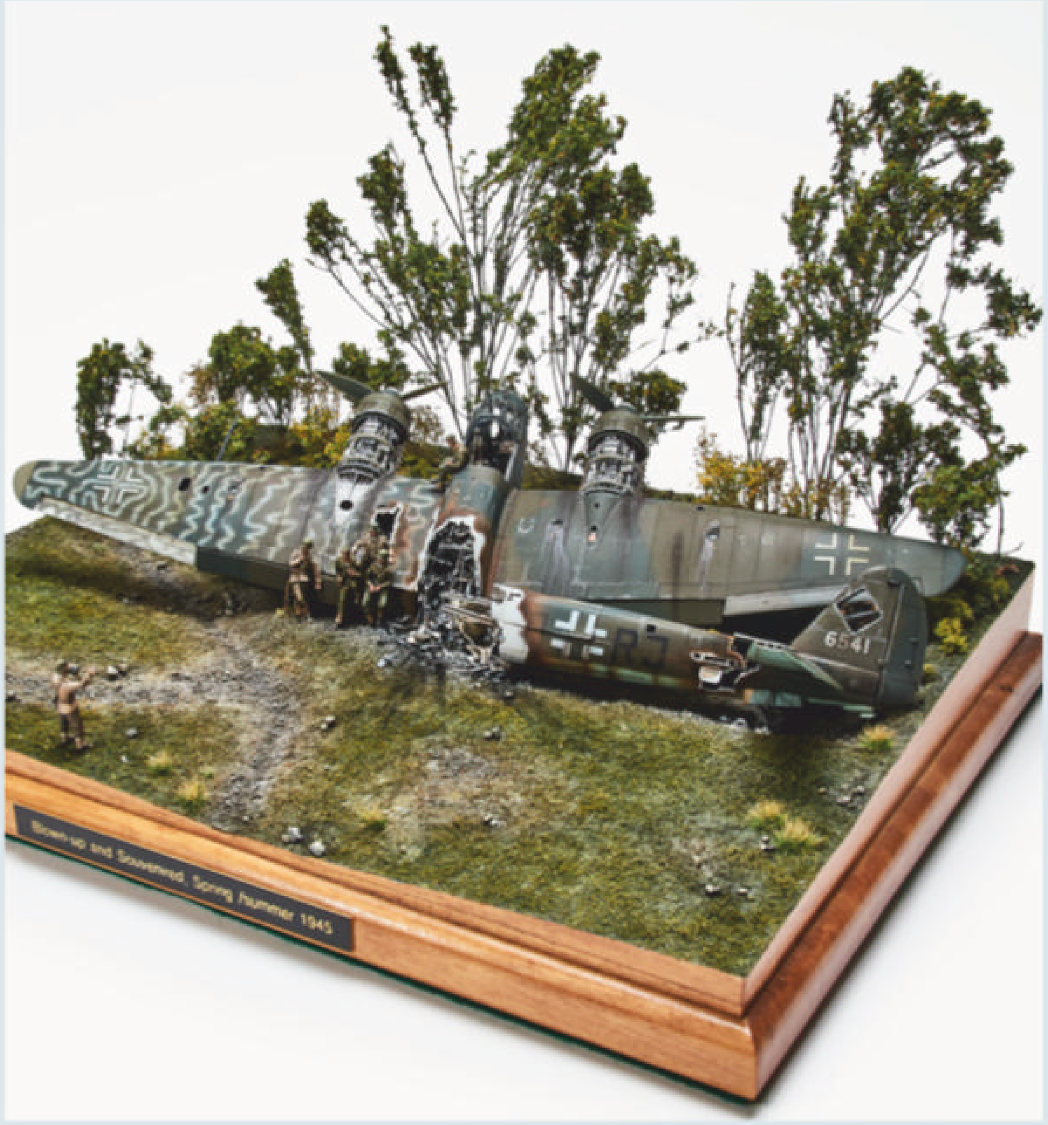
KYLE HARRIS
HOBART, INDIANA
While Kyle built a Supernova 1/100 scale Gundam Sandrock Custom out of the box, he customized the look with airbrushed Mr. Color lacquers.

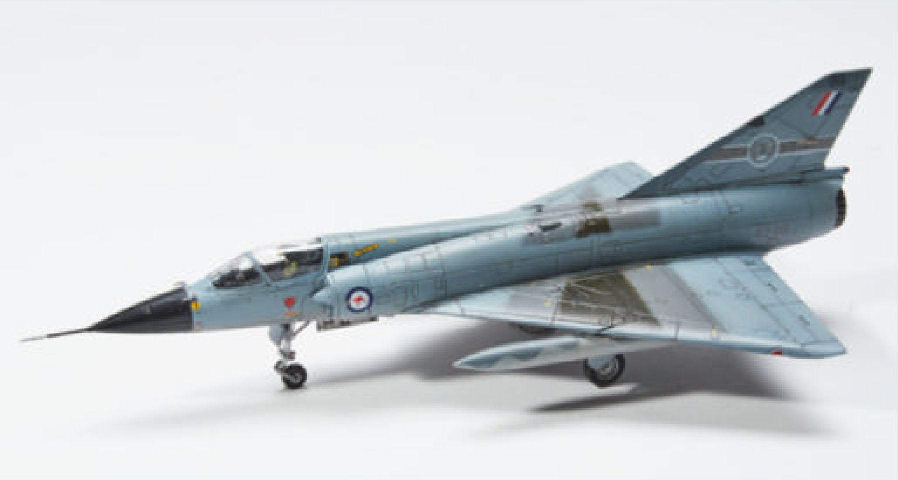
DAVE MEZERA
HOBART, INDIANA
To build the HMS *Hood* in 1940, Dave backdated a Trumpeter 1/350 scale kit with a 50-foot steam pinnacle and forward mast. He airbrushed the battlecruiser with Humbrol and Model Master enamels over pre-shading and weathered with pastels and washes.

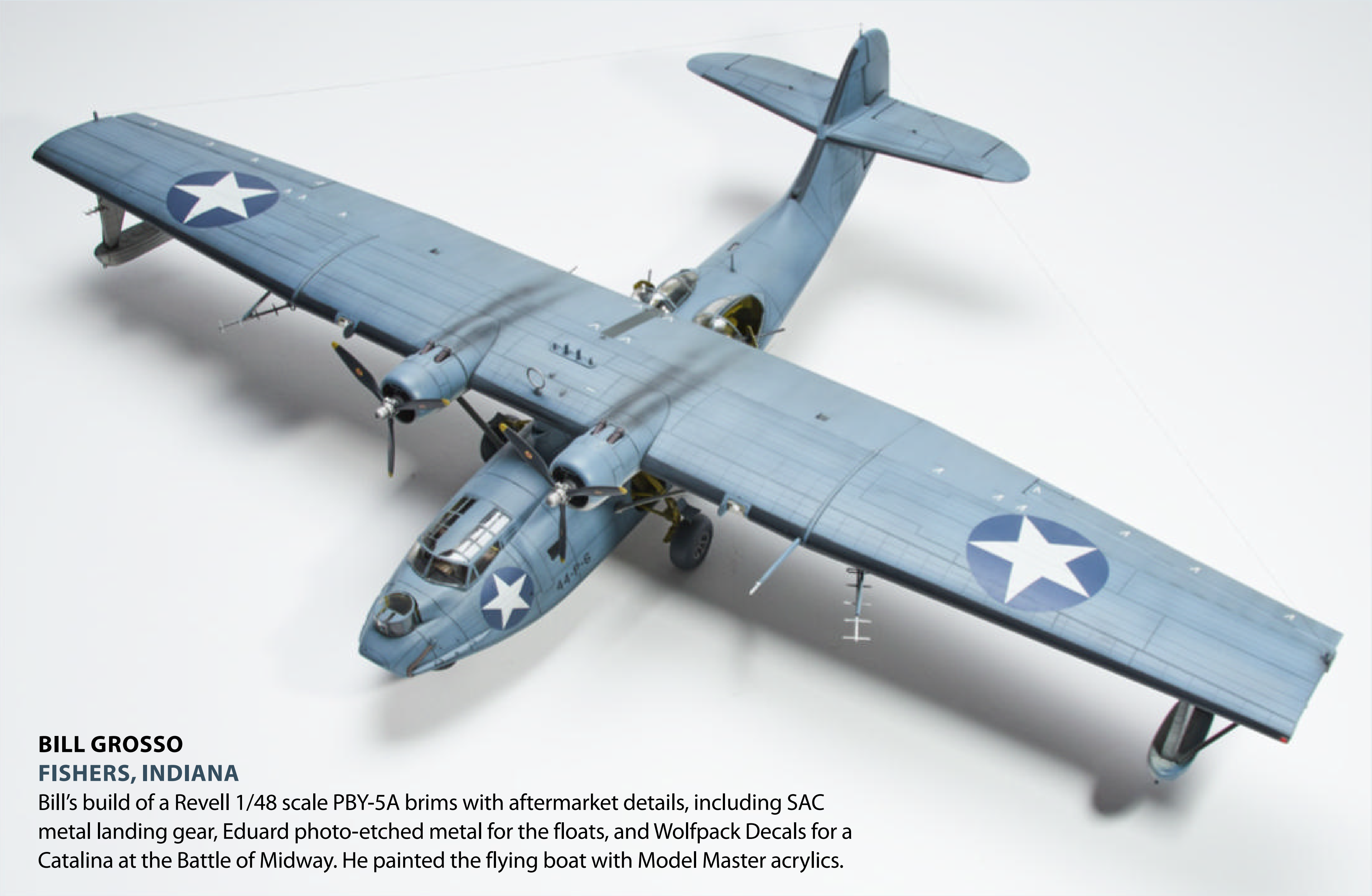


► STEVE HUSTAD
EDEN PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA
For his appropriately named diorama "Blown up and souvenired," Steve cut apart a Hasegawa 1/72 scale Ju 88 and filled the exposed sections with CMK resin and scratchbuilt details. Home-made trees provide a backdrop as a group of Preiser GIs pose for a photo.

▼ TOM CHOY
CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS
"I grew up in Malaysia and Singapore, so my subject of interest has been military aviation in the region," Tom says, explaining his build of a High Planes 1/72 scale Mirage IIIO as a Royal Australian Air Force fighter at Butterworth, Malaysia. He painted it with Tamiya acrylics.



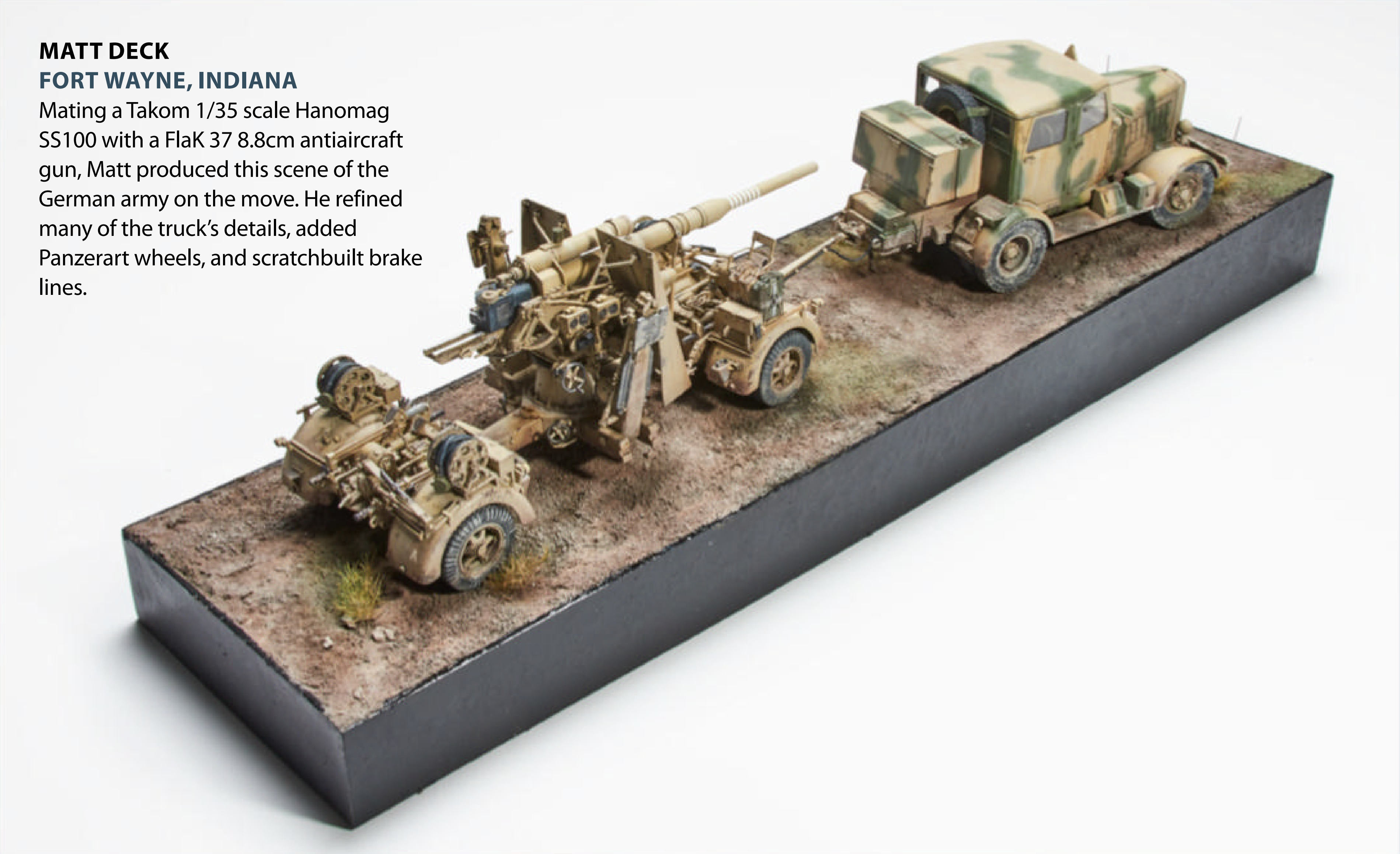




BILL GROSSO

FISHERS, INDIANA

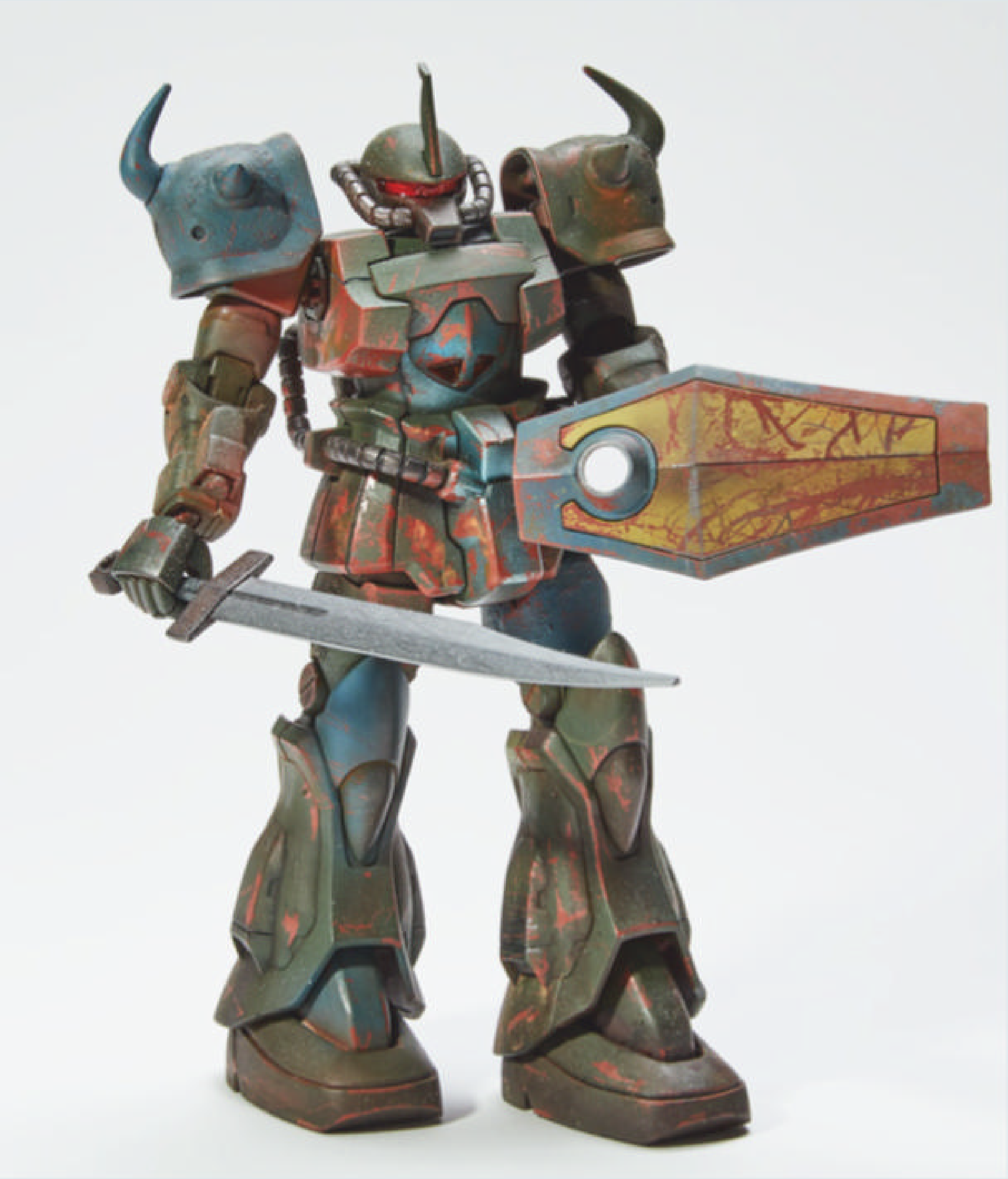
Bill's build of a Revell 1/48 scale PBY-5A brims with aftermarket details, including SAC metal landing gear, Eduard photo-etched metal for the floats, and Wolfpack Decals for a Catalina at the Battle of Midway. He painted the flying boat with Model Master acrylics.

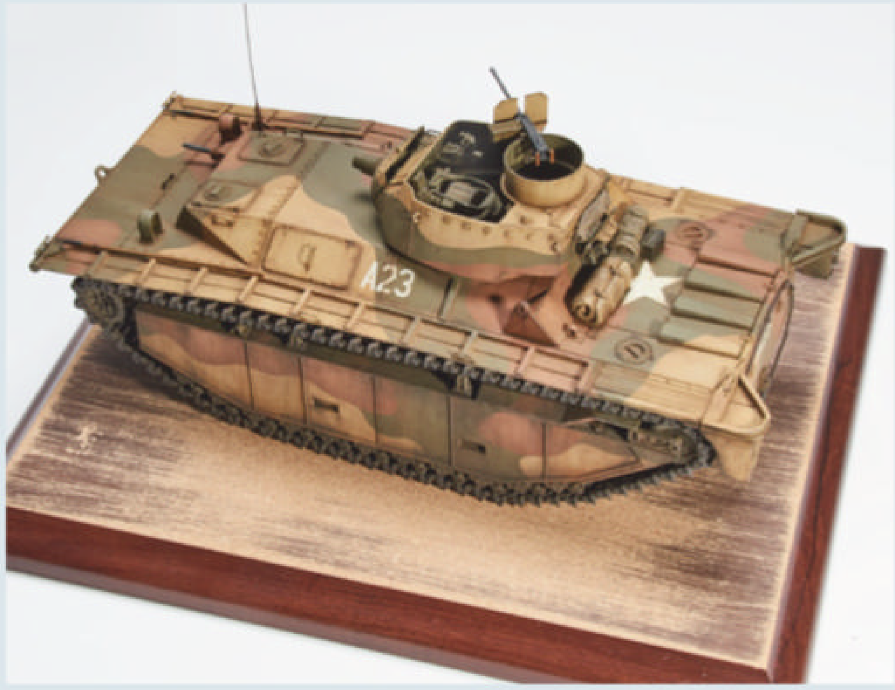


MATT DECK

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

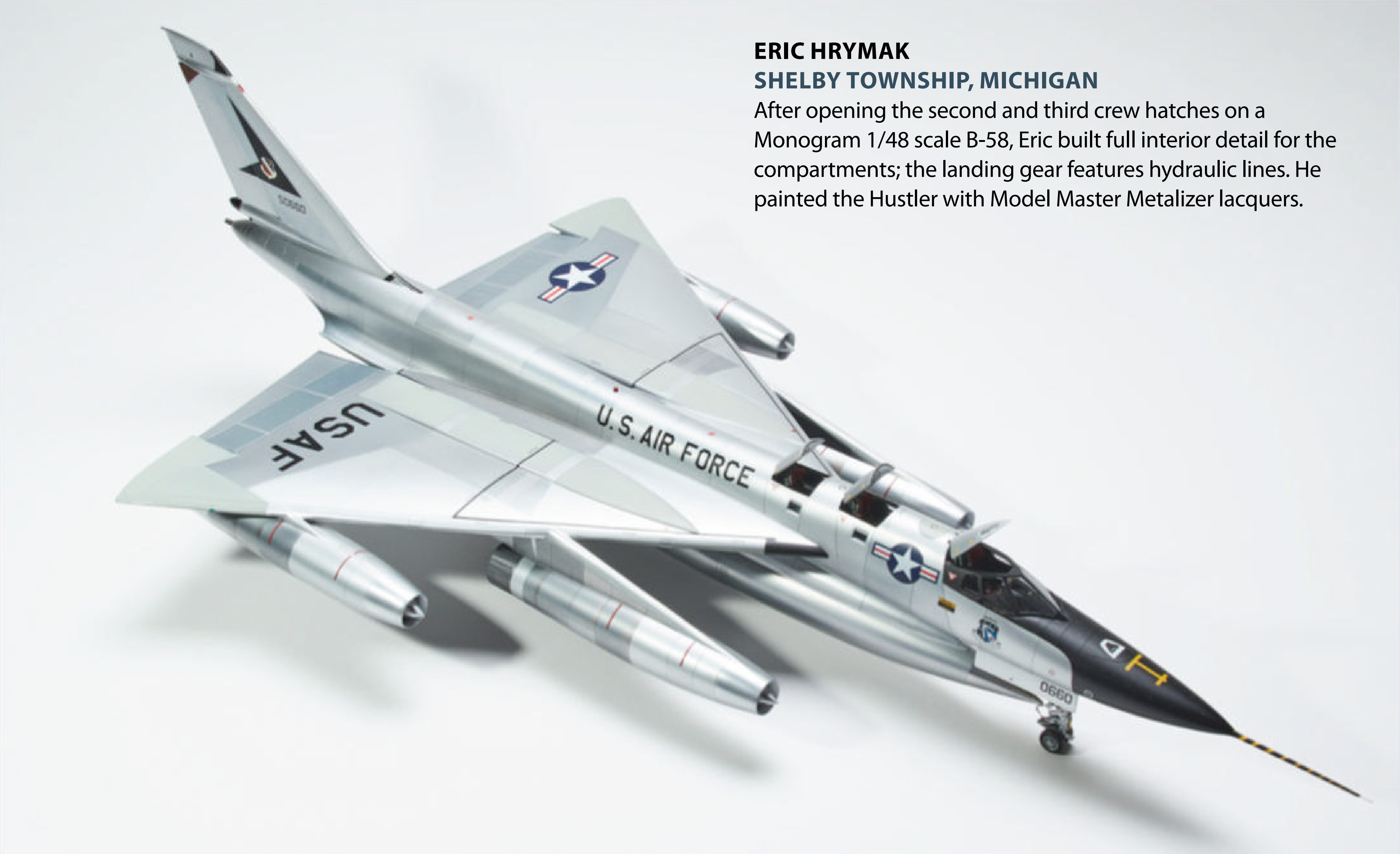
Mating a Takom 1/35 scale Hanomag SS100 with a FlaK 37 8.8cm antiaircraft gun, Matt produced this scene of the German army on the move. He refined many of the truck's details, added Panzerart wheels, and scratchbuilt brake lines.





▲ CURT CAYEMBERG
WENTZVILLE, MISSOURI
To build a Marine Corps vehicle in Iwo Jima, Curt added a scratchbuilt gun shield and AFV Club tracks to an Italeri 1/35 scale LVT(A)-4. He painted the amphibious landing craft with Model Master enamels and Tamiya acrylics and weathered with artist oils.

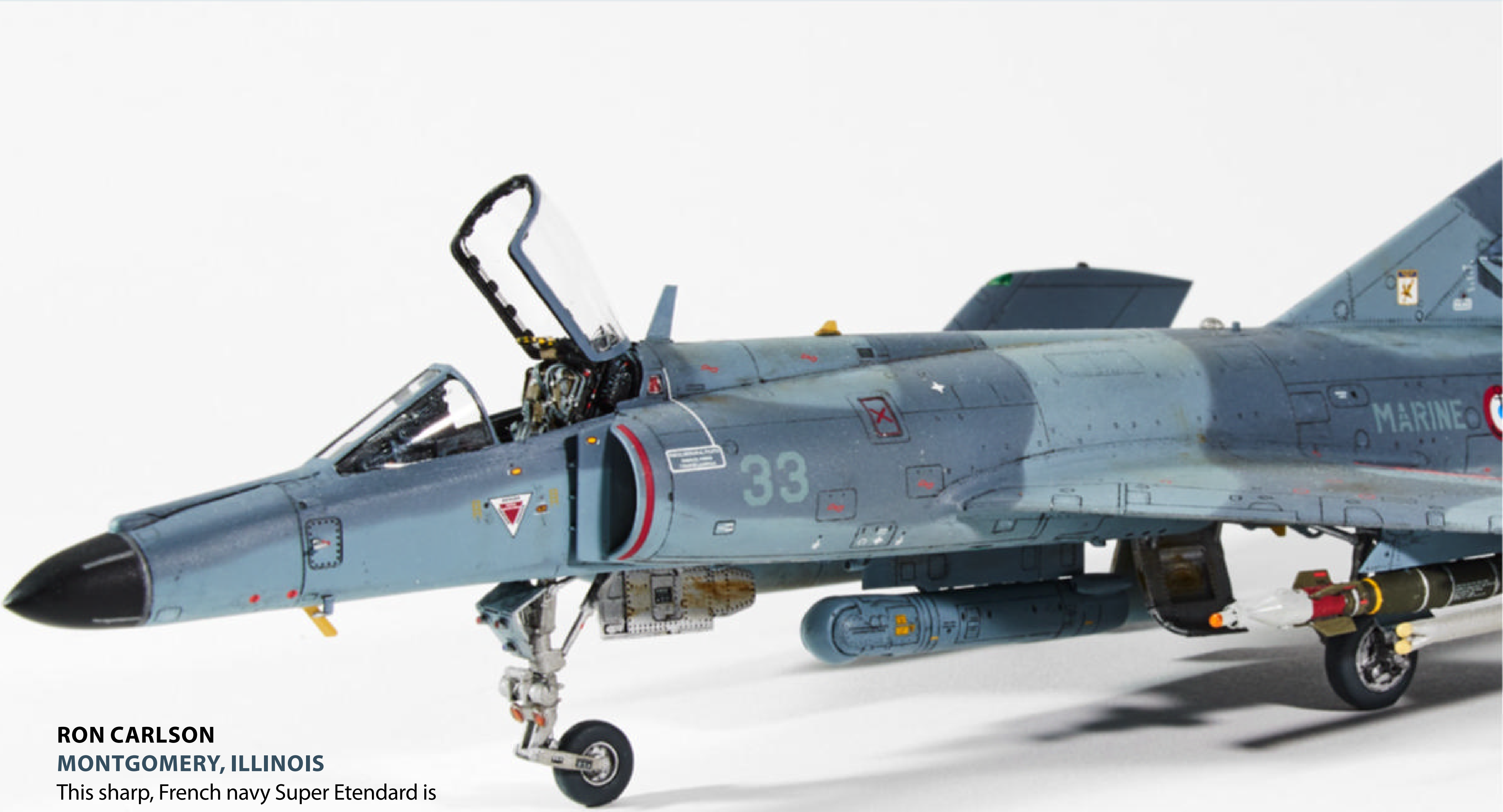
◀ TIM BROWN
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY
Tim's MS-07B Gouf looks as if it's been through a couple of wars thanks to the weathering he applied. He painted the Bandai 1/144 scale kit with Tamiya acrylics over black and white pre-shading and used the hairspray technique to chip the top coats.



ERIC HRYMAK
SHELBY TOWNSHIP, MICHIGAN
After opening the second and third crew hatches on a Monogram 1/48 scale B-58, Eric built full interior detail for the compartments; the landing gear features hydraulic lines. He painted the Hustler with Model Master Metalizer lacquers.

39th Annual Butch O'Hare Open Model Contest

The Chicago-area IPMS/USA Butch O'Hare chapter returned to the DuPage County Fairgrounds for its annual celebration of modeling and attracted more than 200 models to the tables in early November. The *FSM* staff hit the road to take photos and talk to the builders. Check out what grabbed their attention.

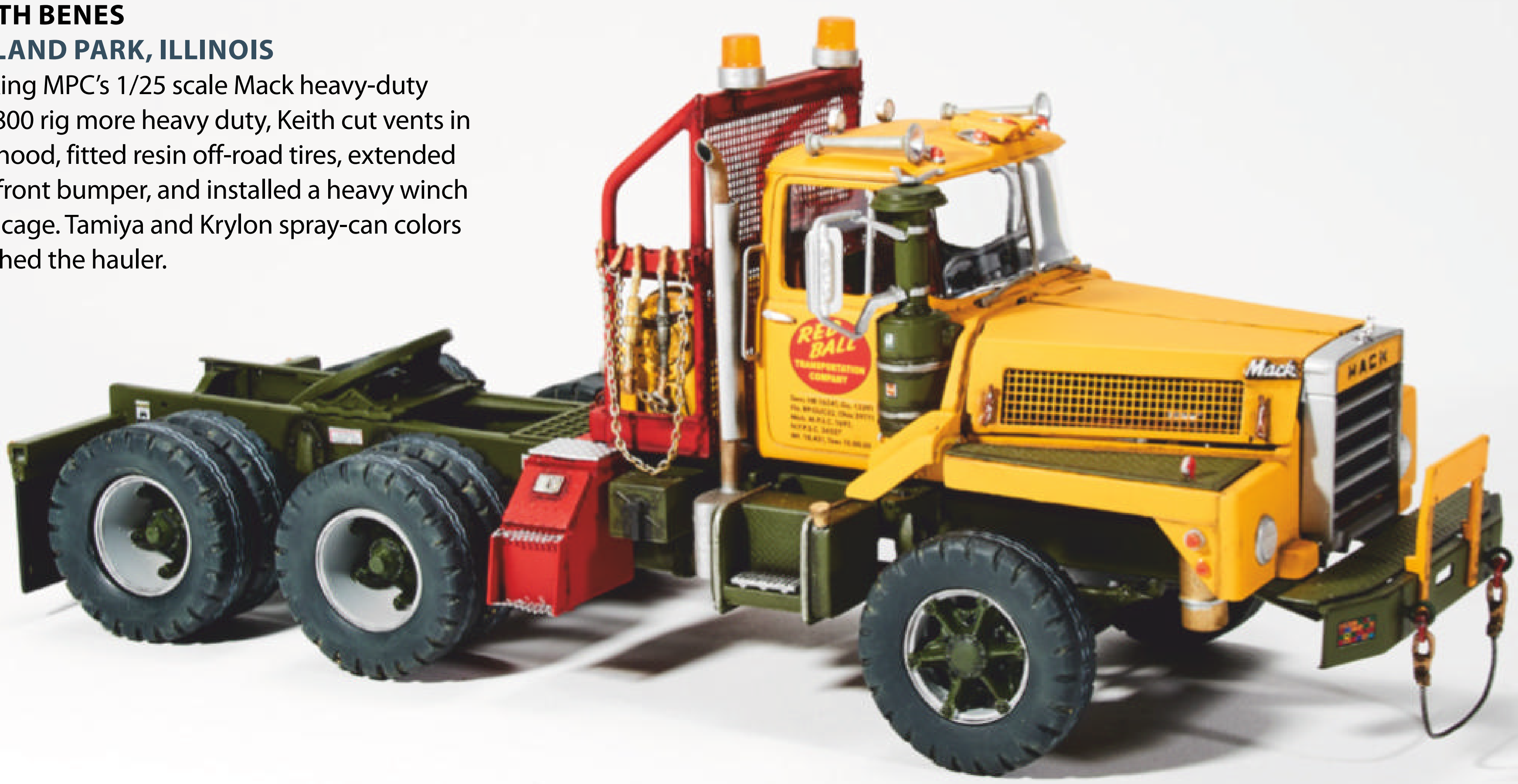


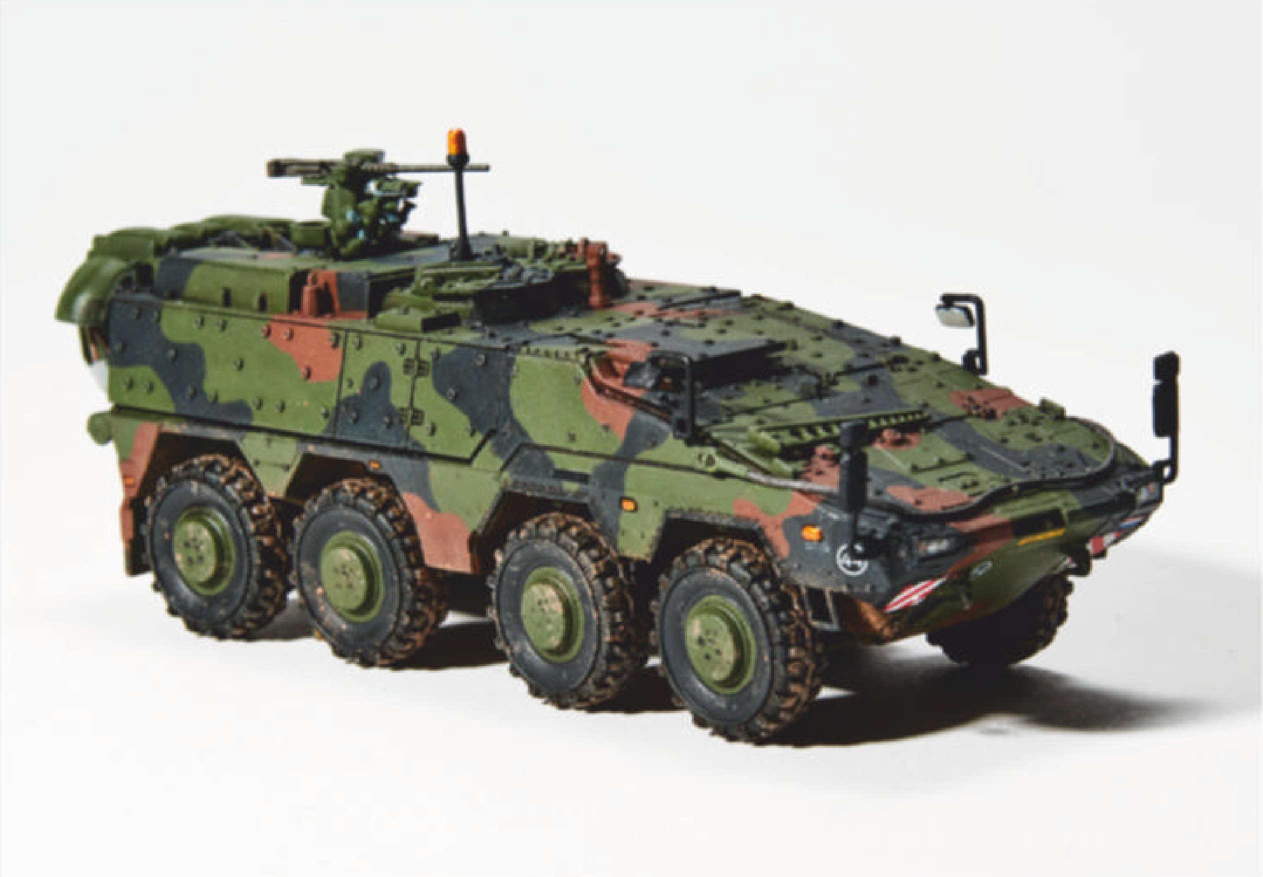
RON CARLSON
MONTGOMERY, ILLINOIS
This sharp, French navy Super Etendard is Kinetic's 1/48 scale kit with an Aires resin cockpit, which was a bear to fit, Ron says. He masked the camouflage with poster putty to get a slightly soft edge and armed the strike fighter with an Eduard Brassin GBU-49 Paveway II.

KEITH BENES

ORLAND PARK, ILLINOIS

Making MPC's 1/25 scale Mack heavy-duty DM800 rig more heavy duty, Keith cut vents in the hood, fitted resin off-road tires, extended the front bumper, and installed a heavy winch and cage. Tamiya and Krylon spray-can colors finished the hauler.

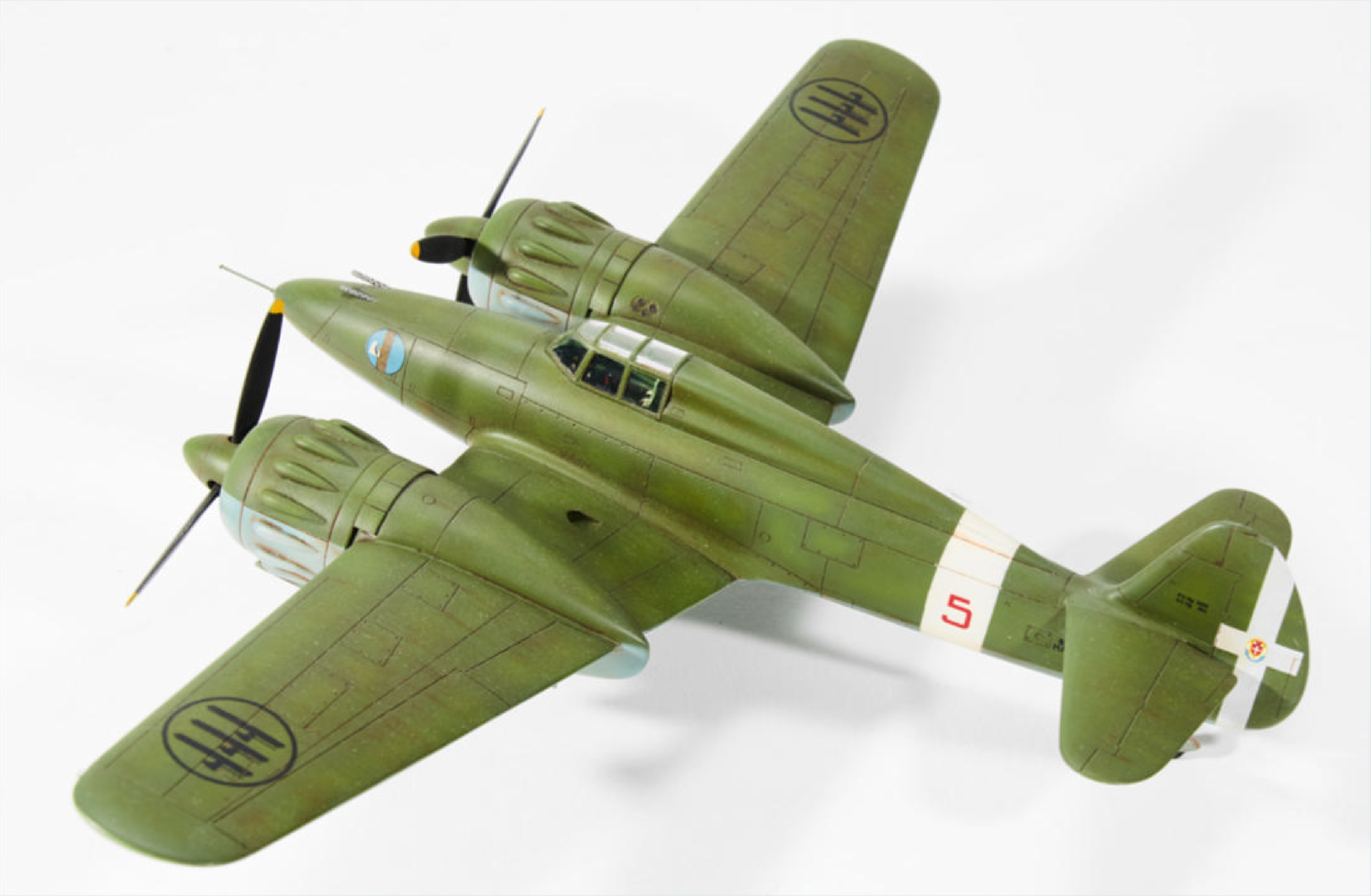




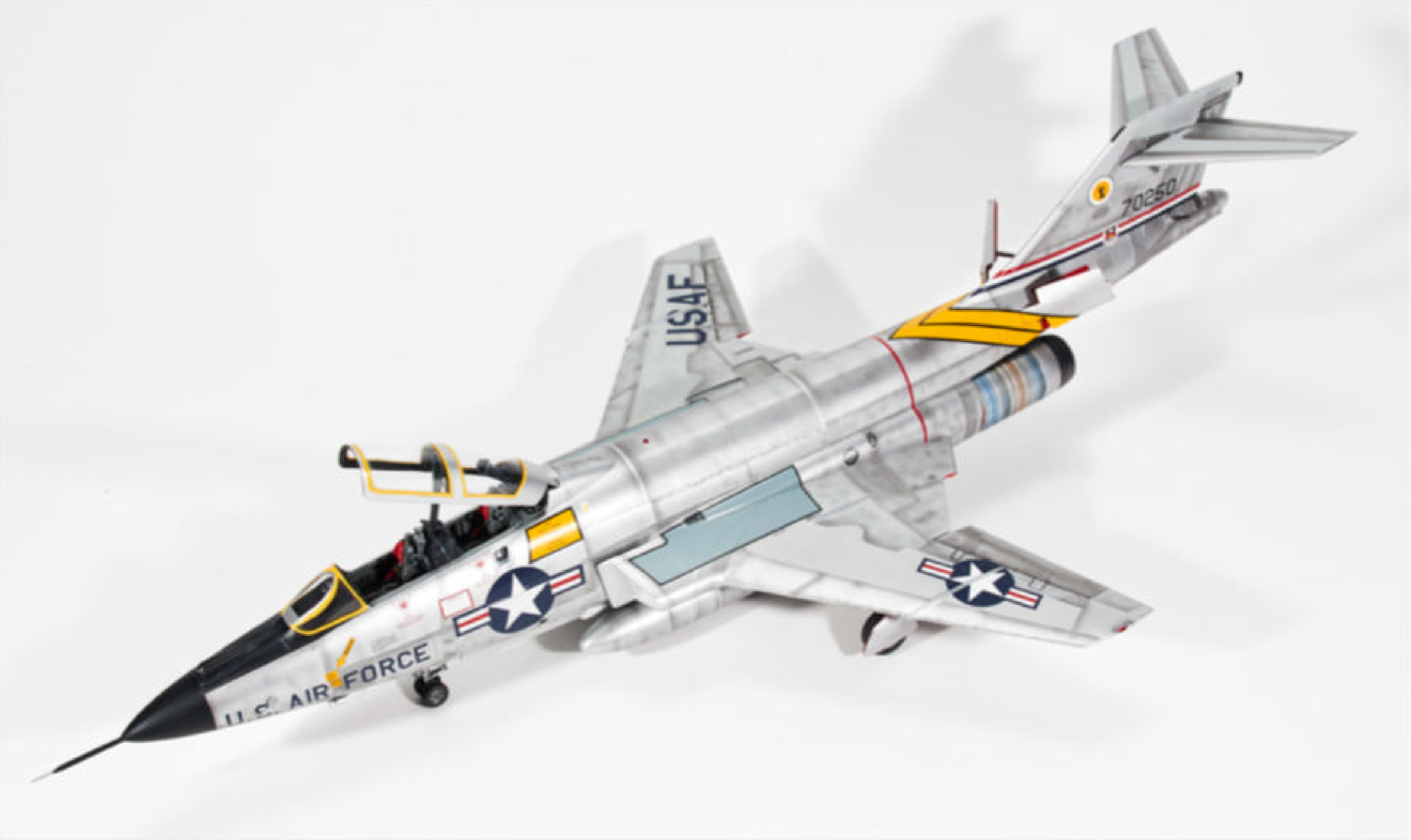
▲ **JOHN NOVAK**

WESTERN SPRINGS, ILLINOIS

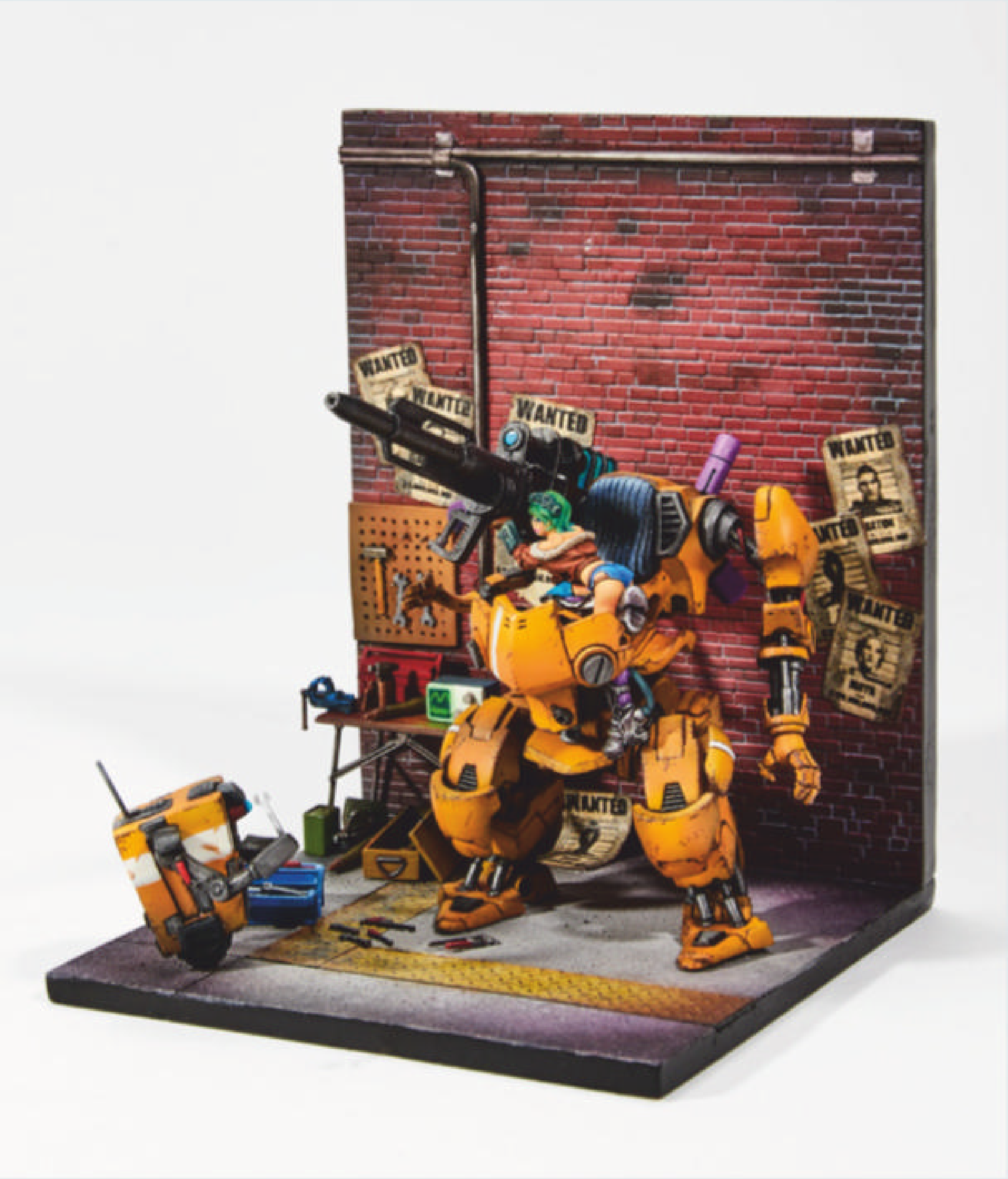
After building Revell's 1/72 scale Boxer armored vehicle as a Dutch Command Post, John painted the NATO camouflage with Tamiya acrylics and poster putty masking.

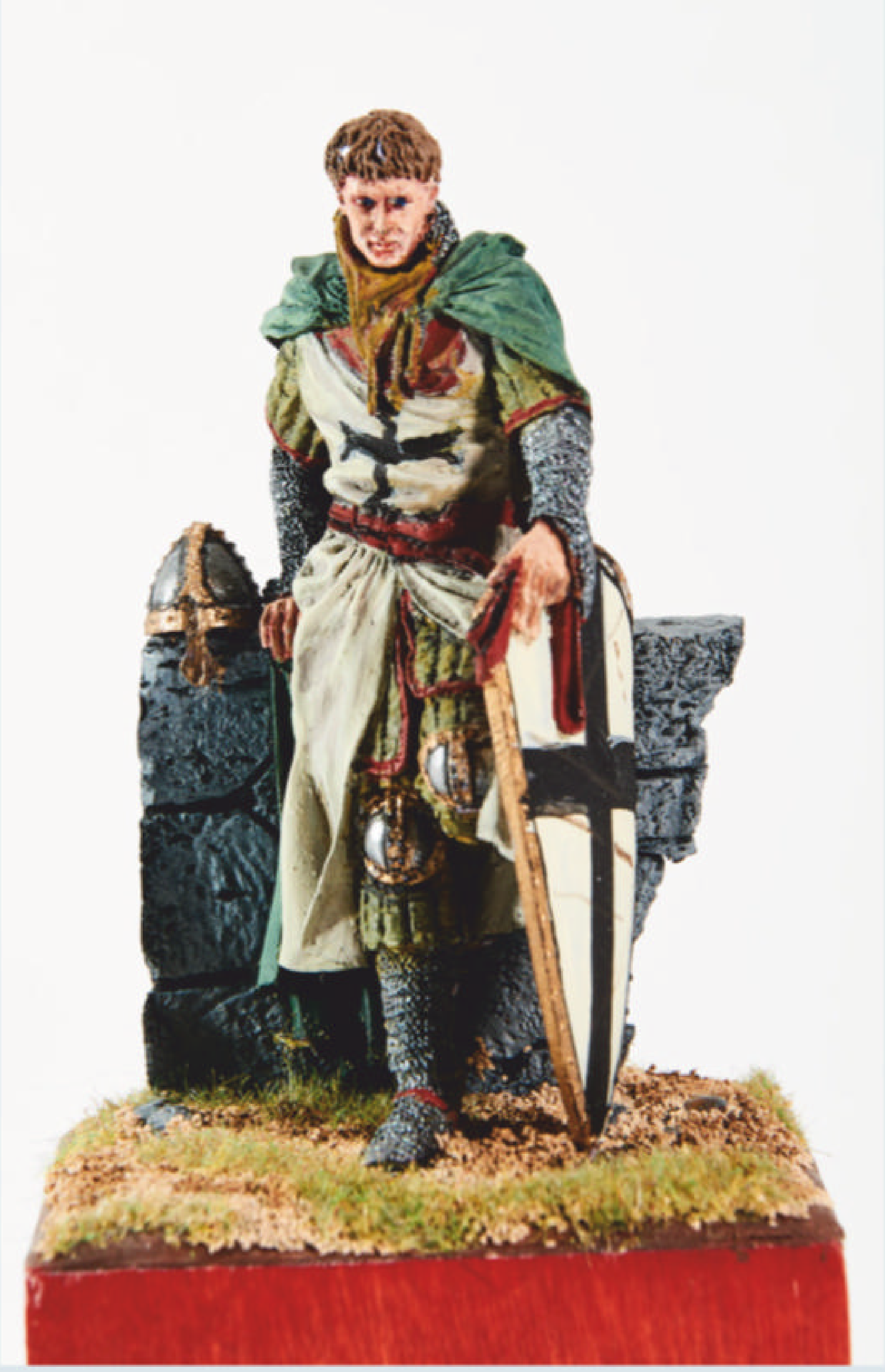


▲ STEVE BUTT
MIDLOTHIAN, ILLINOIS
Designed as a fighter and ground-attack aircraft, 50 IMAM Ro.57 were produced and served the Italian air force in late World War II. Steve built Special Hobby's 1/48 scale kit of the unusual plane and painted with Model Master enamels; pre-shading and artist-oil washes help break up the monochromatic finish.



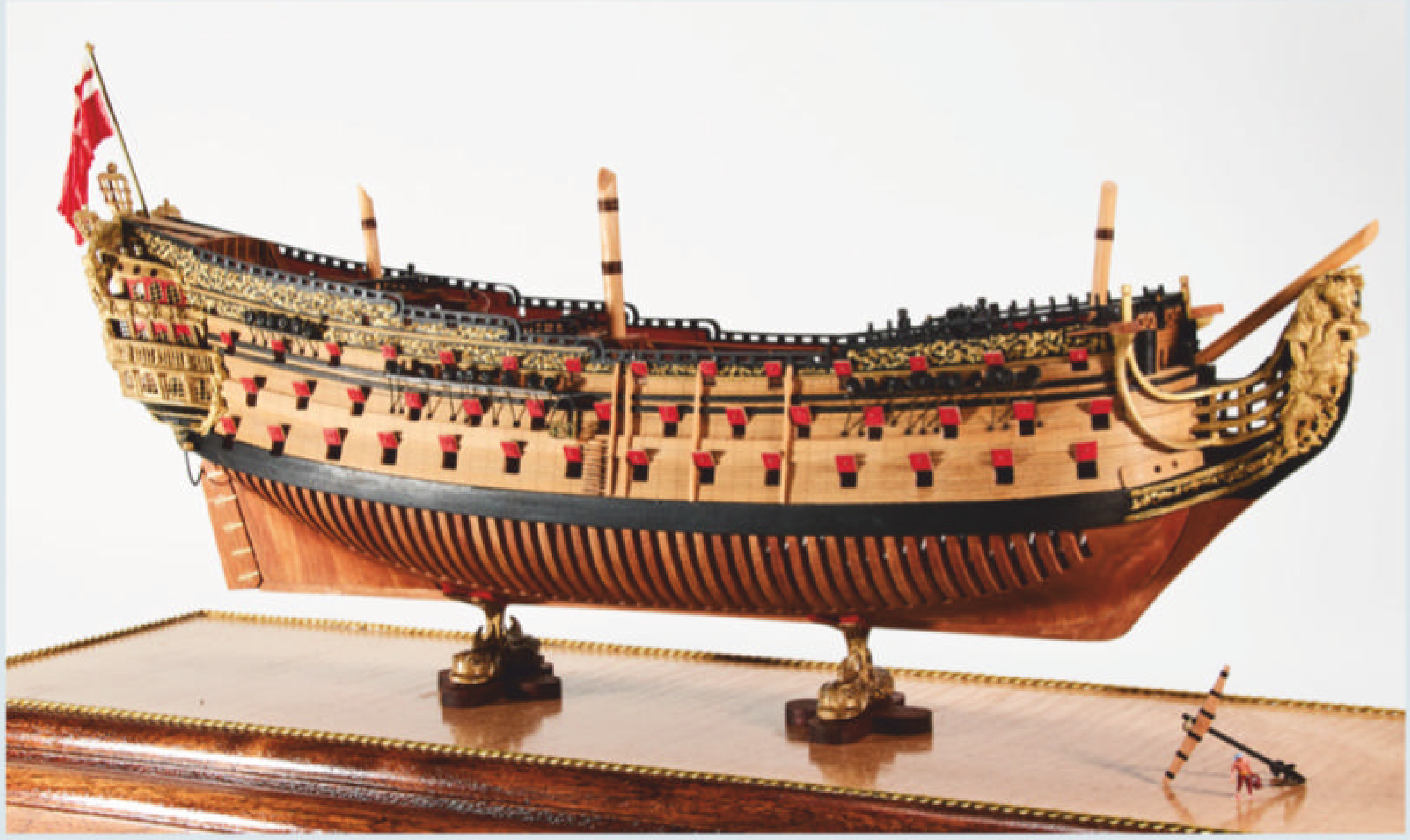
▶ RANDAL DIECK
WEST BEND, WISCONSIN
Randal painted the stunning natural-metal finish on this Revell 1/48 scale F-101B Voodoo with a custom silver mix and plenty of masking to differentiate panels. Model Master enamels colored details and a sludge wash popped surface features.





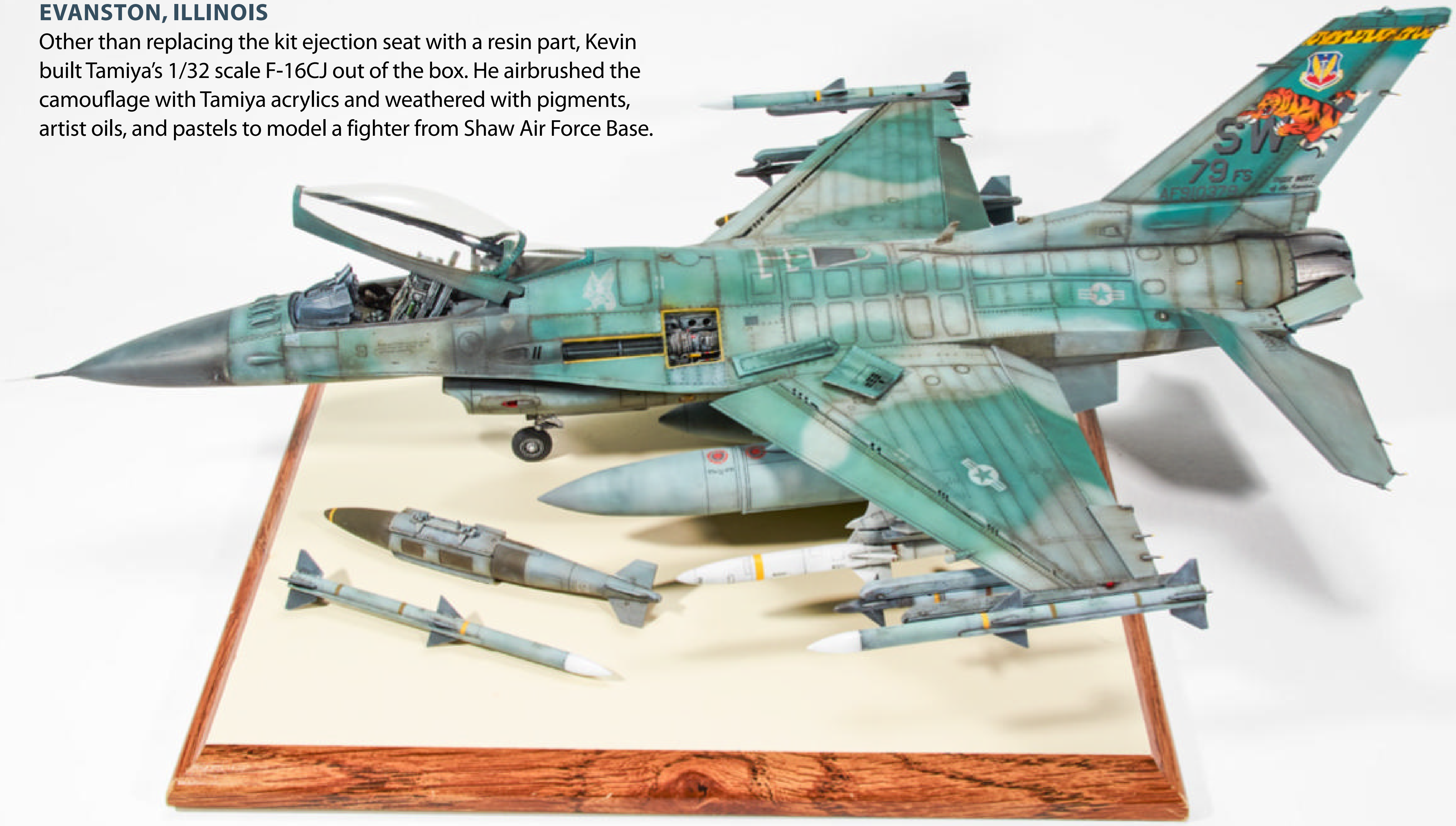
▲ KARL WILLIAMS JR.
CAROL STREAM, ILLINOIS
The mech being repaired in Karl's diorama comes from Soda Pop Miniatures. He painted it, the robot helper, Tamiya tools, and scratchbuilt oscilloscope with P3 acrylics using a pink base coat topped with transparent yellow to produce the orange armor. The base was cast in plaster.

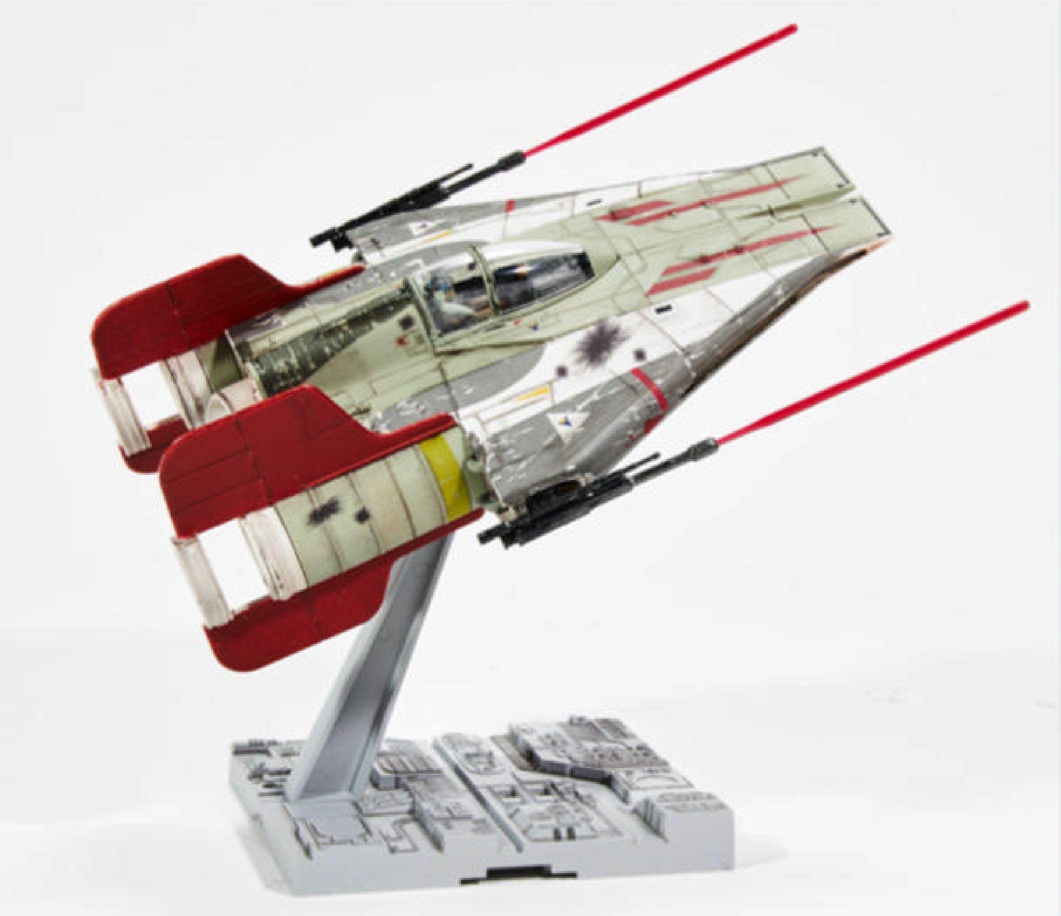
▲ MIKE KNOWSKI
JOLIET, ILLINOIS
After hand-painting a Pegaso 90mm Norman knight with Vallejo acrylics and artist oils, Mike put it on Aves Apoxie Scuplt groundwork.

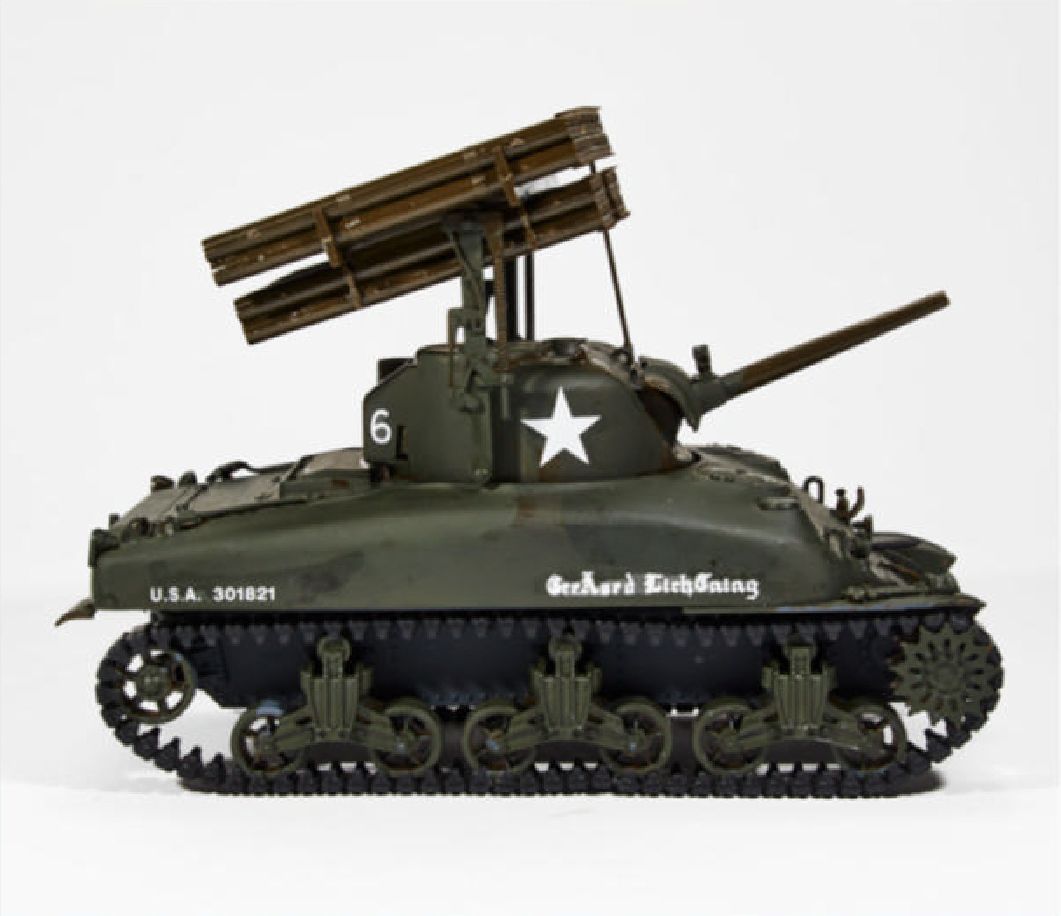


◀ GUS AUGUSTIN
ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, ILLINOIS
Wanting a first-rate ship for his collection, Gus scratchbuilt HMS *Prince William* circa 1719 with boxwood planking over cherry frames. He spent 1,500 hours on the 1/192 scale model that includes more than 2,500 treenails and a figurehead he carved from boxwood.

KEVIN STOVER
EVANSTON, ILLINOIS
Other than replacing the kit ejection seat with a resin part, Kevin built Tamiya's 1/32 scale F-16CJ out of the box. He airbrushed the camouflage with Tamiya acrylics and weathered with pigments, artist oils, and pastels to model a fighter from Shaw Air Force Base.

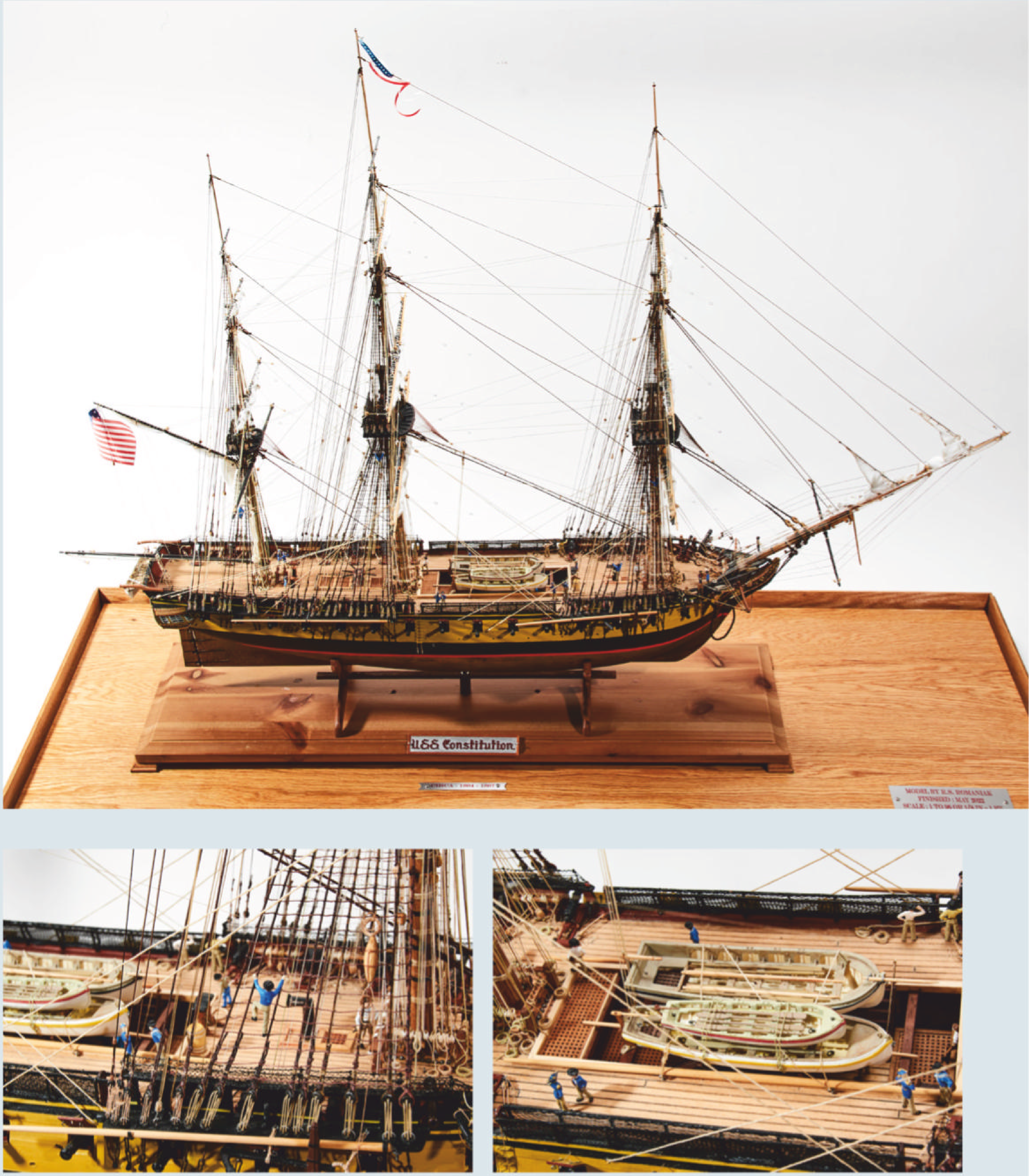






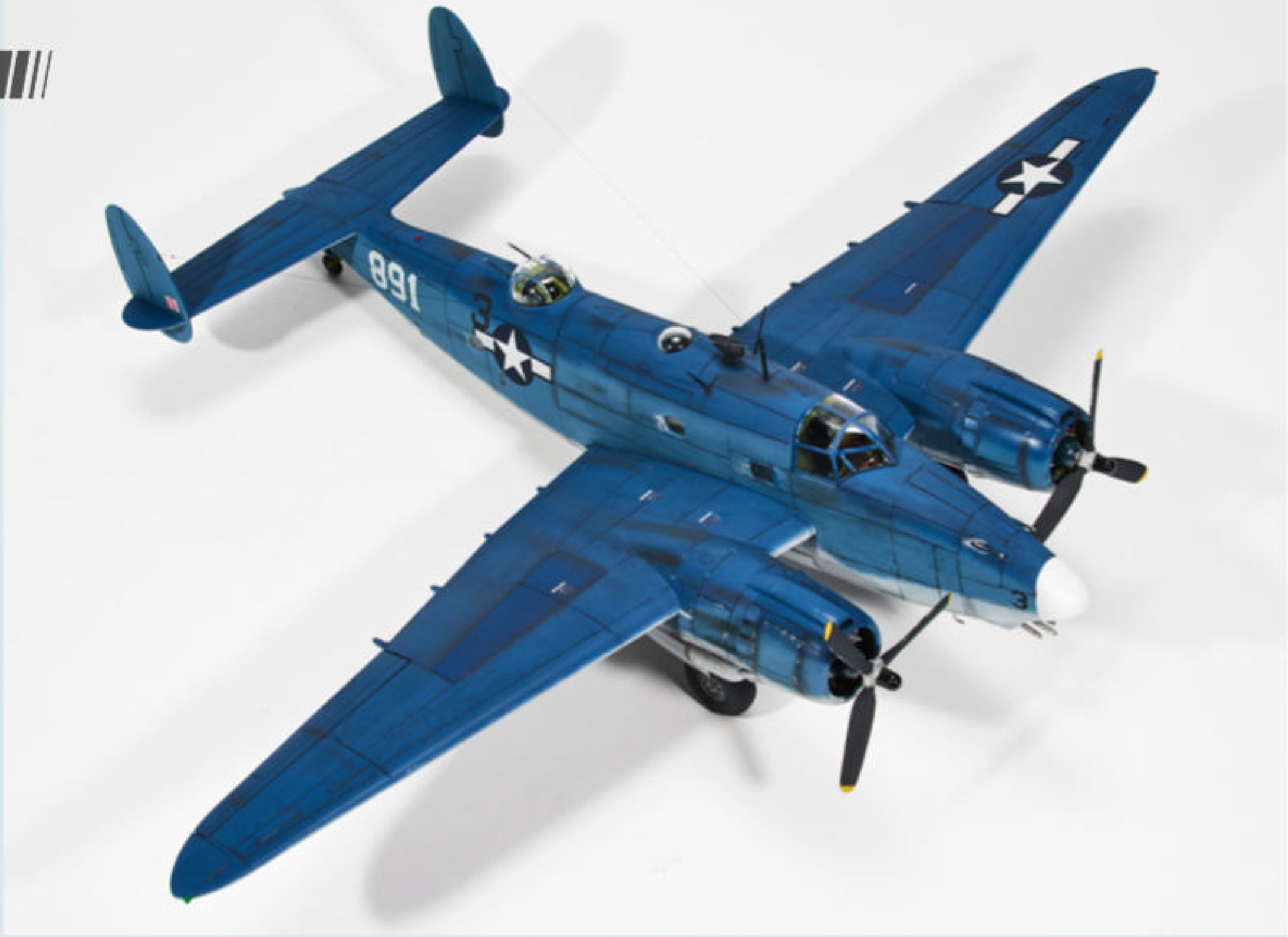
▲ JERRY LINICH
SHOREWOOD, ILLINOIS
Jerry modified the pilot of Bandai's 1/72 scale A-wing to resemble Hera Syndulla, the Twi'lek revolutionary seen in *Star Wars Rebels*. He painted the starfighter with Tamiya colors and used aftermarket decals.

▲ BRANT FULLER
OTTAWA, ILLINOIS
Brant, 7, built this Monogram 1/32 scale Screamin' Mimi Sherman that carries a Calliope rocket launcher on the turret with his dad. The model was hand-painted with Tamiya acrylics.

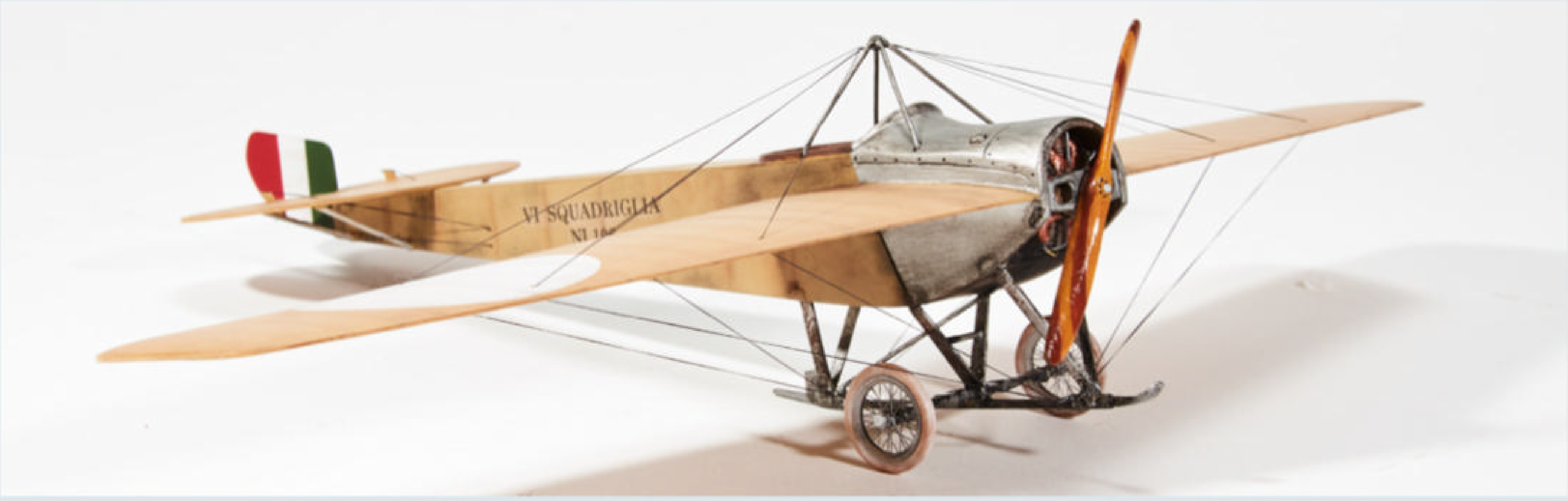


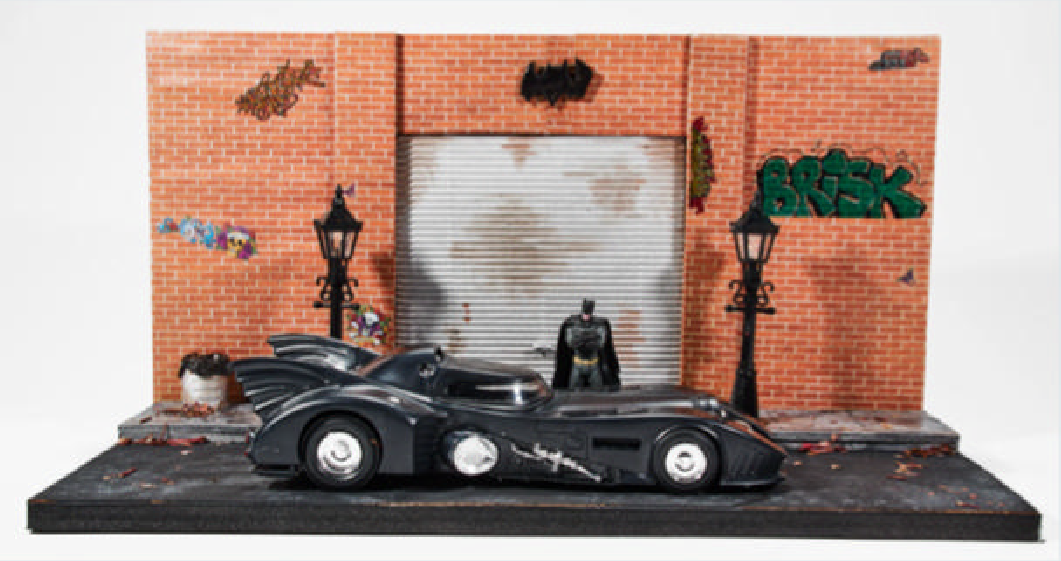
▲ **RICHARD ROMANIAK**
DES PLAINES, ILLINOIS
The hull of Richard's 1/96 scale USS *Constitution* comes from the venerable Revell kit, but he replaced or modified just about everything else, including wood for the decks, deck furniture, gratings, railings, fife rails, knightheads, masts, yards, blocks, and deadeyes. The kit figures were repositioned to show more action.

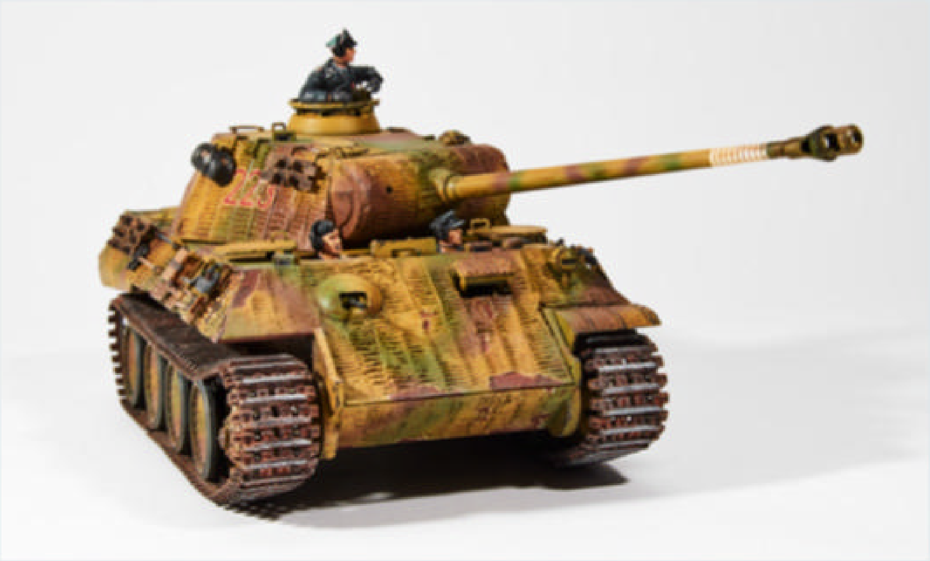
▶ DAVE WOLINSKI
ALGONQUIN, ILLINOIS
The weathered finish on Dave's 1/48 scale PV-1 Ventura replicates the wear and tear experienced by these U.S. Navy patrol aircraft in the Pacific during World War II. He painted the Revell model with Tamiya acrylics and applied an enamel wash.



▼ RICK HAMBEL
WINFIELD, ILLINOIS
The Nieuport IV.M was derived from a prewar design and served in the French air force in early World War I as an observation and reconnaissance plane. Rick modified a Planet Models 1/48 scale resin kit of the aircraft by scratchbuilding the cockpit coaming and adding UMM-USA spoked wheels. He painted the doped linen airframe with Tamiya and Vallejo acrylics.



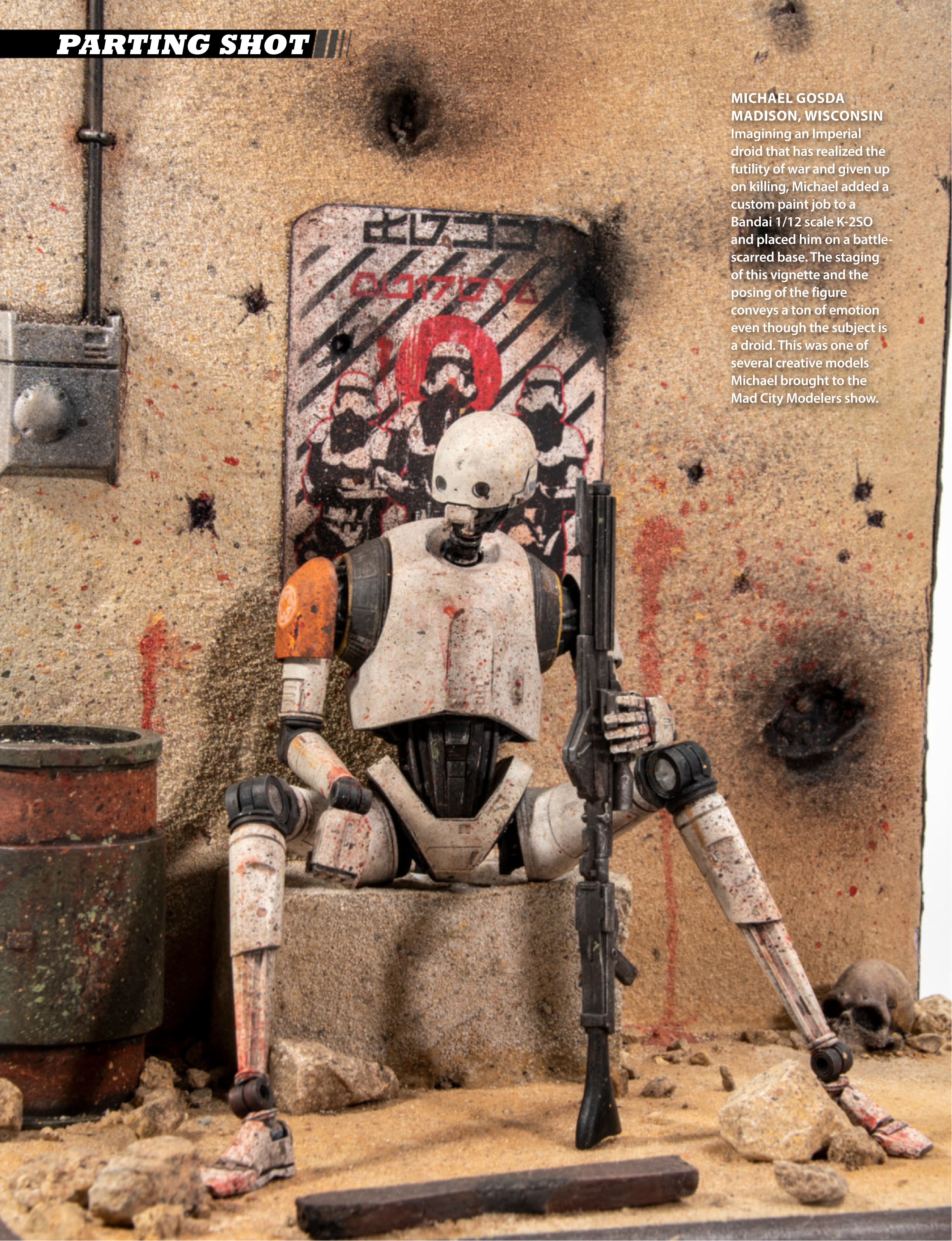




▲ MELISSA KAPPES
BATAVIA, ILLINOIS
The Batmobile is most at home on the gritty streets of Gotham at night, so junior modeler Melissa built just such a base for an AMT 1/25 scale kit of the Caped Crusader's ride from the 1989 *Batman* movie. She used foam board for the street and building, applied washes and graffiti to the walls, and even lit the streetlamps.

▲ GEORGE LOCOCO
ALGONQUIN, ILLINOIS
Modeling a German tank in Normandy in 1944, George applied Zimmerit to a Tamiya 1/35 scale Panther using wall filler paste. Other additions include a scratchbuilt crew and stowage. He used Vallejo acrylics for the camouflage and weathered with artist-oil dot filters, pre- and post-shading, pinwashes, and powdered pastel dust.

PARTING SHOT



MICHAEL GOSDA
MADISON, WISCONSIN
Imagining an Imperial droid that has realized the futility of war and given up on killing, Michael added a custom paint job to a Bandai 1/12 scale K-2SO and placed him on a battle-scarred base. The staging of this vignette and the posing of the figure conveys a ton of emotion even though the subject is a droid. This was one of several creative models Michael brought to the Mad City Modelers show.

DISCOVER DEPTH-OF-SCALE

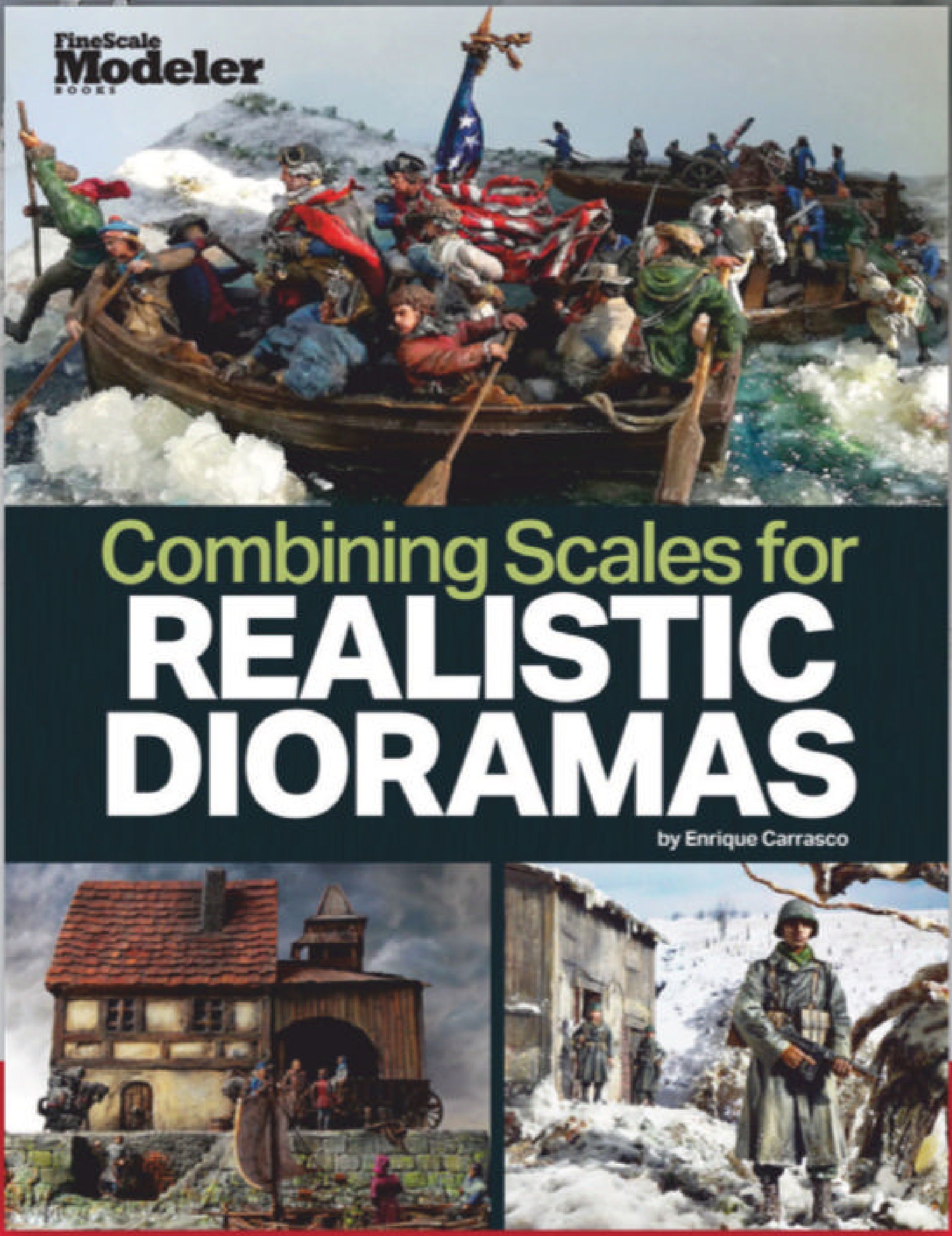
STEP-BY-STEP PROJECTS!

Combining Scales for Realistic Dioramas shows modelers how to add an astounding level of detail to dioramas by incorporating figures, vehicles, and scenery in varying scales.

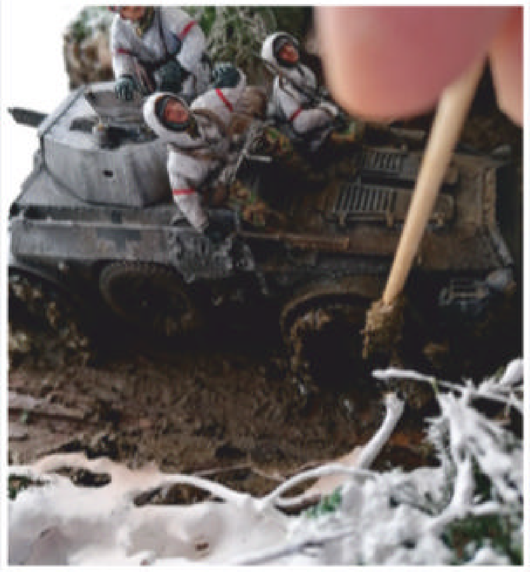
Written by master modeler Enrique Carrasco, this all-new 112-page book includes:

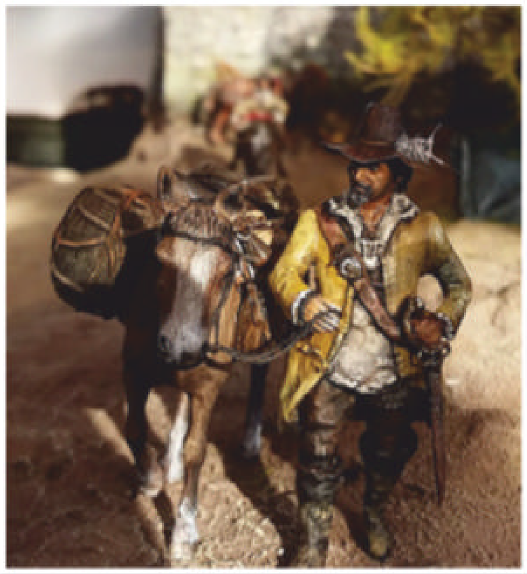
- Seven step-by-step depth-of-scale projects combining up to three scales in a diorama
- Scenes from the Middle Ages, Roman Times, the American Revolution, World War II, and more
- Techniques for painting, modifying figures' poses, and scenic effects

And more!


FineScale Modeler BOOKS
Combining Scales for
REALISTIC DIORAMAS
by Enrique Carrasco

Take your dioramas to the next level with the amazing depth-of-scale technique!





KALMBACH
HOBBY
STORE

Order your copy today at KalmbachHobbyStore.com/Dioramas

Sales tax and retail delivery fee where applicable.

P40485